

Synod split on choice of divorcees who could remarry in church

By Clifford Longley, Religious Affairs Correspondent

The new procedure for deciding which divorced people should be allowed to remarry in church was found acceptable by the General Synod of the Church of England yesterday, but the synod was clearly divided.

Attempts by opponents of the principle or remarriage to halt the debate were twice defeated by a ratio of about two to one, though clearly many of those in favour also had misgivings.

The synod spent five hours sifting through more than 30 amendments, but none of those which were passed fundamentally altered the procedure.

The Archbishop of York, Dr John Habgood, expressed the feeling of many of the reluctant supporters if it when he said: "We have aroused so many expectations by what I believe were foolish decisions, that we must now go ahead and make it work, and make it work honestly."

The synod decided in July that the circumstances in which a couple should be allowed a second marriage should be identified by a three-tier system. The local clergyman would investigate the facts and make recommendations; a panel of advisers would consider the papers in each case and give the bishop concerned its advice; and the bishop will make a ruling which will include the ending of any previous marriage vows.

Yesterday's debate was about the details of that process.

An alliance of "indissolublists" and "workablists" in the synod tried to have the debate adjourned indefinitely, and unsuccessfully opposed the commencement of the revision stage.

Later, however, Father Peter Geldard, of Canterbury, a spokesman for the group opposing remarriage in principle, indicated that they should accept the majority decision and try to make the system work. He asked whether bishops who oppose remarriage in principle would also observe the spirit of the procedure.

Canon Colin Craston, who was steering the item through its debate on behalf of the synod's standing committee, appealed to the House of

Bishops at its next meeting to make a public declaration that they would accept the recommendations of the panels of advisers.

During the debate, the synod voted not to write a formal statement of the criteria on which decisions would be based, not to have any kind of appeal and not to give a couple the right to appear before the advisory panel in person.

One significant amendment, proposed by the Bishop of Knarborough, the Rt Rev John Dennis, altered the way the procedure treats the ending of the previous marriage vow. The amendment was carried. It will now be regarded as a statement by the bishop to the effect that the previous vow is no longer binding, as it is "now incapable of fulfilment".

The procedure will next be considered by the House of Bishops, and be the subject of discussions between each bishop and his local clergy, before returning to the General Synod for approval in February and implementation by Easter, 1984.

Census rejects view that England's trees are vanishing

By John Young, Agriculture Correspondent

The accepted view among conservationists that Britain is steadily being denuded of trees is rejected in a census published yesterday by the Forestry Commission.

The census, which is claimed to be the most detailed since 1947 and has taken three years to complete, shows that the total area of woodland in England has risen since the Second World War by about 14 per cent, and in Wales by more than 40 per cent.

Although the increase is largely due to new conifer plantations, there has been no decline in the total area of broadleaved woodland. In England broadleaves still account for about 57 per cent of all woodlands.

The census findings are certain to be challenged by amenity groups. The Friends of the Earth said yesterday that it was still studying it, but that it already had doubts about the validity of some of the conclusions.

The commission's report observes that, although there has been a considerable loss of oak woodland, perhaps as much as 60,000 hectares in England in the last 30 years, it remains the dominant species. Moreover, more oak has been planted or regenerated in the last 10 years than any other species.

The character of broadleaved woodland has, however, gradually changed, largely as a result of the decline in the number of coppices and colonization by species such as sycamore, ash and birch.

About 45 per cent of the total woodland area in England consists of broadleaved high forest, compared with only 34 per cent in 1947. Nearly three-quarters of all broadleaved woodlands are in southern and eastern England.

In England conifer plantations have increased from about 165,000 hectares in 1947 to more than 380,000 hectares, and in Wales from 42,000 to about 168,000 hectares.

The volume of timber in English woodlands has almost doubled since 1945 to an estimated 111 million cubic metres, and in Wales it has trebled to 26 million cubic metres.

In spite of the loss of hedgerow elms, the number of non-woodland trees which form an important part of the lowland landscape is estimated to have risen by about 15 per cent since 1951.

Although Dutch elm disease has reduced the total timber volume of non-woodland trees, there appear to be enough young trees to maintain the current growing stock, the report concludes.

England, Census of Woodlands and Trees; Wales, Census of Woodland and Trees (Forestry Commission, 231 Corstorphine Road, Edinburgh EH 12 7AT, £3 each).

Airport gun charge man remanded

A former US State Department foreign service officer accused of having a sub-machine gun and ammunition was further remanded in custody for a week at Horseferry Road Magistrates Court yesterday.

Walter Reed Marinale, aged 40, was charged on two counts under the Firearms Act, 1968, after a short stay in Britain by anti-terrorist squad detectives on October 26 at Gatwick airport.

He is accused of having a 9mm semi-automatic carbine Uzzi sub-machine gun and a .38 Smith and Wesson revolver without holding a firearms certificate, between October 15 and 25, within the jurisdiction of the Central Criminal Court.

Marinale, described as an international trader, giving an address in Alexandria, Virginia, in the United States, is similarly charged with having thirty-seven 9mm bullets and twenty .38 bullets.

Marinale did not apply for bail.

Court attack on social workers

A boy aged 15, who pleaded guilty at the Inner London Crown Court yesterday to setting fire to a lift, was ordered to be detained for 18 months.

Judge McLean said he was forced to take that action because of the residential workers' strike.

"This is a disgraceful situation," the judge said. "The defendant is deprived of reports to which he is entitled by striking social workers who have directly flouted the guidelines set out by the Home Secretary."

He had been told that Southwark social workers were taking "selective strike action" which meant a number of reports were not being produced.

He felt the only way that he could force the social services to produce reports was to give a sentence that could be taken to the appeal court.

Computers switch on to sex

By Clive Cookson, Technology Correspondent

Sex and marriage have reached the computer. Acorn, manufacturer of the BBC Micro, has launched two programs which, it claims, "could improve people's love lives and help to bring down the divorce rate".

One program, called "I Do", uses a questionnaire written by Professor Haas Eysenck, the psychologist, to access the good and bad points of a couple's relationship and pin-point danger areas.

The computer firm 400 multiple-choice questions at each partner and then compares the answers. It calculates 11 separate "compatibility scores", for subjects including "feminism and antifeminism" and "Ritido".

The other program, "The Dating Game", brings traditional computer dating techniques into the home. Its questionnaires were written by Dr Glen Wilson, a colleague of Professor Eysenck at London University's Institute of Psychiatry.

The program can match up to 40 people, heterosexual or homosexual and for each one rank the others in descending order of compatibility.

Mr Ivan Berg, whose firm Ivan Berg Software produced the programs for Acorn, had produced 5,000 of each program, which Acorn hopes to sell by Christmas at £12.65 a cassette.

The same software firm has also made 10,000 copies of a similar program, "Match-making", for the rival Commodore 64 home computer.

Dr Wilson and Mr Berg acknowledge that most cassettes will be bought for fun and to break the ice at adult parties.

The girl who gave her twin new life

Doctors have just given Sonia Baillie, aged four, a clean bill of health after a successful bone marrow transplant from her identical twin, Ruth, in August last year to treat leukaemia.

Their mother, Mrs Olwen Baillie, said yesterday: "Even though she was only young, Ruth realised she could save her sister's life".

As the girls raced about the playground of Crosby Road School, Mrs Baillie, of Waterloo, Merseyside, said that they were both eager to make up for lost time.

A campaign has been launched to raise £100,000 for a bone marrow unit at the Royal Liverpool Hospital.

	1980 hectares		Per cent of total woodland area	
	Forestry Commission	Private	Total	
Managed				
Mainly coniferous	334.3	216.2	550.5	45.3
Mainly broadleaved	50.1	438.4	488.5	41.1
Other				
Coppice with standards	-	11.5	11.5	1.0
Coppices	1.0	25.5	27.5	2.3
Scrub	3.0	84.7	87.7	7.4
Cleared	5.4	17.2	22.6	1.9
Total	393.8	794.6	1,188.4	100.0

GPs' free-spending 'over'

By Our Health Services Correspondent

Family doctors will have to demonstrate that they provide value for money and the days of uncontrolled financing of the family practitioner services are almost certainly over, the Royal College of General Practitioners was told yesterday.

With health ministers considering a report on whether cash limits can be applied to family doctors services, Dr Donald Acheson, chief medical officer designate at the Department of Health, told a conference held by the college in London that he believed "the period of uncontrolled financing (of family doctor services) is almost certainly over".

The report, which is believed to argue that cash limits as such cannot be applied but that more careful evaluation is needed of trends in general practitioners' spending, would open up the debate on how family doctors spend money, Professor Alan Maynard, professor of economics at York university told the conference.

Doctors would be required to show that they are using efficiently and ethically scarce resources, including drugs. With limited resources, doctors providing the form of treatment, effectively denied treatment to others. Choices had to be made in extreme cases about who would live.

Gillick fight goes to Commons

Hectic day in pill campaign

By Thomson Prentice Medical Reporter

Mrs Victoria Gillick, who wants to stop doctors giving girls under 16 the pill without their parents' consent, last night checked into a London hotel room reserved for her by TV-am.

This morning she is due to appear on the company's breakfast programme and will later be interviewed by Jimmy Young on his radio show. Tonight, she travels to Norwich for an appearance on a BBC television programme.

Between her media engagements, at the House of Commons at 9am, she will meet Dr Gerard Vaughan, the former Minister for Health, whose constituents support her campaign to deny family doctors the ability to prescribe contraceptives to girls under 16 years of age without parental consent.

Dr Vaughan was Minister of Health in 1980 when the department's advice to doctors on prescribing contraceptives in such circumstances was last reviewed. Dr Vaughan saw no cause for substantial change. Mrs Gillick's view is that he is now opposing his own guidelines.

The guidelines are to be reviewed again, largely because of Mrs Gillick's campaign. More than 200 MPs have so far supported her but she has been unsuccessful in trying to have the guidelines declared unlawful and has now taken her case to the Court of Appeal.

The actions of Mrs Gillick, who has 10 children, have led to wide-ranging debates about teenagers' sexual behaviour. Lord Devlin recently commented that her legal battle "may well be socially the most important to come before the courts in this decade".



Mrs Caroline Woodroffe: Pill preferable to abortion.

To many people, Mrs Gillick represents moral integrity and the defence of parents' rights to control their children. To the British Medical Association, family planning agencies and many individuals, her views and those of her supporters are seen as unrealistic, if not dangerous.

The Department of Health's advice to doctors is that they should try to persuade girls under 16 to tell their parents they want contraceptives, but the doctors can prescribe them without parent's knowledge if they deem it desirable.

The petitions supporting Mrs Gillick call for parents to be given a statutory right to be consulted by doctors.

Earlier this month, in a court case involving a girl said to have been on the pill since the age of 10, Judge Brian Gibbons said: "The law has to protect precocious children from corrupting themselves". Publicity after the case led to increased support for Mrs Gillick's campaign. The girl was later said to be 13 when she sought the pill.

However, birth control agen-

cies such as the charitable Brook Advisory Centres, one of which prescribed to the girl involved in the case, are apprehensive about changes in the law or the guidelines.

Mrs Caroline Woodroffe, chairman of the Brook centres, said yesterday: "People who sign this petition are trying to use doctors as some kind of agents of social control to try to stop young girls having sex."

"The idea that it is desirable for girls under 16 not to be given contraceptives is based on the spurious premise that this will stop them having sex. All that will happen is that there will instead be an increase in the numbers of abortions and unwanted pregnancies."

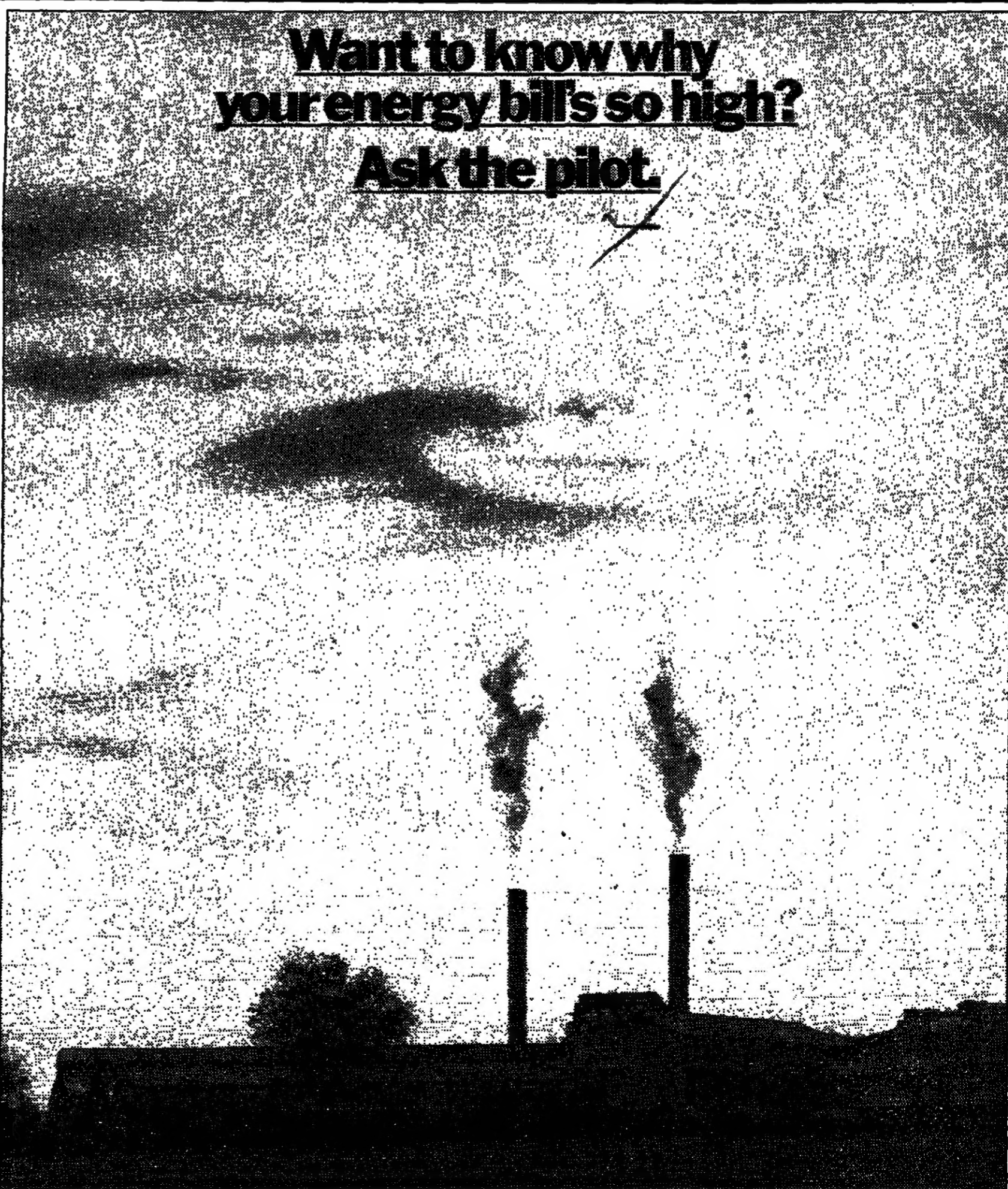
She added: "We would much prefer to give girls contraceptives than abortions."

Most of the girls under 16 who wanted contraceptives had good relationships with their parents. If the guidelines were changed, the minority of girls most in need of help would be deprived of it.

Since 1975, when the guidelines were first introduced, the rate of pregnancies among girls aged 15 has declined from 11.01 per 1,000 in England and Wales to 9.85 per 1,000 last year. About half of the girls under 16 who attended the centres did so with their parents' consent.

The British Medical Association said yesterday: "We don't want to see either the law or the guidelines changed. We are talking about children who have already decided to exclude their parents from their actions. If they can no longer go to their doctor, what is to happen to them?"

Mrs Gillick said yesterday: "If I am unsuccessful, in the Court of Appeal, I will go to Parliament to seek a change in the law."



Want to know why your energy bills so high? Ask the pilot.

Any glider pilot will tell you that a glider rises on hot air currents, or thermals. And that one of the best places to find a thermal is over a factory.

Great for the pilot, but not so hot for you if you're running the factory. Because the hot air he's using could be costing you a fortune in wasted energy.

Exactly how much could bring you down to earth with a bump. Especially when energy costs play such a vital part in production costs. However, with the help you can receive from the Energy Conservation Demonstration Projects Scheme, there's a lot you can do about controlling your energy use.

Since the scheme was set up we've advised many companies with similar problems. A couple of years ago, we helped Pilkington Brothers at their glass works.

In a nutshell, the melting of glass produces a lot of waste heat. Some obviously can't be reused because of pollution, but a considerable amount can.

What Pilkington did was to install a system that used the hot air that could be recycled, to heat their warehouse to prevent condensation from forming on the stored glass.

The estimated annual savings will enable the scheme to pay for itself in three years. Perhaps you could install a scheme on

similar lines? To find out, send in the coupon and we'll send you details of this and other ways to save energy.

It's good news for you, but perhaps not quite such good news for the pilot.

To: The Energy Efficiency Office, P.O. Box 702, London SW20 8SZ. Please send me more information on waste heat recovery and how I can make better use of energy.

Name _____
 Job Title _____
 Address _____
 Tel. _____
 ENERGY EFFICIENCY OFFICE

PARLIAMENT November 10 1983

Getting more time for the Liberal view

COMMONS

The speaker (Mr Bernard Weatherill) in a series of points of order in the Commons about the article in *The Times* that day by Mr Russell Johnston (Inverness, Nairn and Lochaber, L.) calling on the Speaker to give the Liberal Party "its fair share in Parliament", said he had seen the article but had no intention of commenting either on it or Mr Johnston's conduct.

The article was mentioned during exchanges on future business and subsequently on points of order during which Mr John Evans (St Helens North, Lab) wondered if *The Times* had committed a breach of privilege in printing Mr Johnston's article.

Mr Russell Johnston said his intention in writing the article in *The Times* was to make it clear to the public that the part of the House which represented 25 per cent of the electorate and 7,500,000 people would indeed consider it profoundly unfair if there was not a willingness to call a member of the Social Democratic Party and a member of the Liberal Party in every debate.

In making this case Mr Speaker (he said) in no way whatever was I seeking to impugn your character or raise any doubt whatever about your personal wish to be fair. Mr Richard Douglas (Dunfermline West, Lab), who raised the issue, said the article in *The Times* by Mr Johnston impinged on the Speaker's responsibility to the House. He asked the Speaker to give his views on the article in order to allay the fears of MPs.

Mr Dennis Skinner (Bolsover, Lab) said he had read the article with some care and it could be read another way. There were several instances where Mr Johnston was complaining about the way in which the SDP leader or leaders were able to catch the Speaker's eye as distinct from the Liberal MPs. He regarded it as a possible veiled attack upon the SDP by the Liberal Party.

(Laughter) Mr Johnston said that on October 27, after the debate on the National Health Service in which no Liberal was called, the Speaker had said, in response to a point of order from Mr Malcolm Bruce (Gordon, L): "I am sure that the House would consider it

extremely unfair if in every debate the Chair had to call a member from the Social Democratic Party and one from the Liberal Party." (Laughter cheers)

After Mr Johnston had explained his intentions in writing the article, Mr Alan Williams, for the Opposition (Swansea West Lab), said the Opposition deplored the fact that Mr Johnston had gone to the press to make what anyone who read it would see as an utterly ill-founded and unwarranted attack on the Speaker.

The Alliance not only seemed to want the penny in the bun, they wanted to keep it and eat it. Did not the article in *The Times* indicate quite clearly that in the last Parliament the Alliance was given extra time for extra seats which it obtained by the shabby process of political defection, a process which represented not one extra Liberal or SDP vote in the country?

Was it not utterly consistent with that precedent, which they welcomed at that time, that their now depleted ranks in the House should be reflected with depleted speaking time? On Mr Johnston's own figures in the article, with only 4 per cent of the seats, was not the Speaker in danger of being over-generous in giving them 5 per cent of the time—25 per cent longer than they were entitled to?

Mr Norman St John-Stevas (Chelmsford, C) said that irrespective of the merits of the article, was it not deplorable that an MP should write an article in a newspaper criticising the Speaker? Criticism of the Speaker within the House was most severely limited and could not be made except by substantive motion.

How much more so must not criticism be limited to MPs writing in this newspaper, which had no connexion with the House? The Commons was the guardian of the rights and liberties of the people and that function could not be discharged unless there was a respect for the Chair outside the House.

During the election, most MPs were opposed by Alliance candidates, so described on the ballot paper. Some were Liberals, some Social Democrats—in his constituency he had forgotten which, (Laughter) They all stood in Alliance. Surely, if every party in the House were allowed to be able as of

right to put forward front bench speakers in every debate, what was this and privy councillors, back-bench MPs were going to be squeezed out.

It was essential that whoever else was involved in this controversy, it should not be the Speaker. The Leader of the House should take the initiative and discuss the matter with the various party leaders. That was the way to discuss it and not through the Chair, much less through the press.

Mr John Evans (St Helens North, Lab) said: *The Times* is forever telling us and the world it is the voice of the British establishment. Is there not a question whether *The Times* is involved in breach of privilege in actually printing what the MP wrote?

Is it not a fact that the SDP and Liberal Party are one party and therefore entitled to only one speaker in any debate?

Mr Weatherill said that discussions with the Leader of the Liberal Party (Mr David Steel) had been taking place.

● If required to adjudicate on an article in *The Times* by Mr Russell Johnston (Inverness, Nairn and Lochaber, L.) complaining about unfairness in the allocation of speaking time in the Commons, Mr John Biffen, Leader of the House, should check Mr Johnston's voting record, Mr Dennis Skinner (Bolsover, Lab) said.

After Mr Biffen had announced the business for next week Mr Skinner asked: If he finds it necessary to set up a series of meetings in order to adjudicate on this matter, will he bear in mind that, although Mr Johnston has complained about the number of opportunities he gets to speak in the House, in the last full parliamentary session he only managed 81 votes out of 337?

Mr Biffen: I am not clear that I have any adjudicating role, but if I have it will be nice to know that Mr Skinner will be my research assistant. (Laughter.)

● The House then went on to debate two Liberal-SDP motions tabled for a day given them by the official Opposition.

Mr David Penhaligon (Truro, L), Liberal spokesman on employment, moving a Liberal-SDP motion calling on the Government to take



Johnston: Profoundly unfair



Evans: Privilege issue?

steps to provide work for unemployed young people, said the grand total of those unemployed under age 25 was 1.19 million, not that far short of the total unemployed in Britain in 1979.

He said the situation was despairing, yet the skills of Britain's people were likely to be the most important single factor if the nation was to have a future and to be able to do all the things it wanted to do in the next 10 to 20 years and well into the next century.

The Government would have to work hard to improve the image of the Youth Training Scheme and sell it to the young.

Mr Peter Morrison, Minister of State for Employment, moved an amendment endorsing the Government's industrial and economic policies in tackling the root causes of unemployment through the control of inflation and public expenditure and congratulating the Government on the successful launching of the youth training scheme.

He said the stock of vacancies continued to rise steadily and the prospects for young people were better. There had been an improvement in job opportunities open to school leavers in some areas. The Government was committed to the long term future of youth training.

Mr Gregor Mackenzie (Glasgow, Rutherglen, Lab) said the problem was that there were just not enough jobs for young people. The economic policy of the Government had failed to produce the jobs and the opportunities for these kids.

He had a daughter in her 20s who went through school, got good "O" levels, six highers and a degree from Glasgow University. She was unemployed for a year and got a job eventually washing tables in a local restaurant. A lot of young people were cynical about training because they knew that Sir James and his team were coming to give the inquiry the fullest priority.

The abilities, talents and potential of a whole generation to turn the country into a progressive and civilized place to live, had been squandered.

It had created a sub-culture of youth poverty set against the background of North Sea oil which had only been used to keep people unemployed and on the dole queue.

Mr Roger King (Birmingham, Northfield, C) said wage rates being offered to full-time apprentices were far too high. Greater financial inducement could be given by the price of reducing slightly unemployment benefit.

Mr Paddy Ashdown (Yeovil, L) said the YTS was regarded by many young people as being much more to do with getting the Government out of the political book than with something serious to do with youth unemployment.

No time for a debate on The Times

Mr John Biffen, Leader of the House, declined during questions on future business in the Commons to provide Government time for a debate on the sale of *Times* Newspapers.

Mr Jack Ashley (Stoke-on-Trent South, Lab) asked: Does he recall that on October 27 he promised the Leader of the Opposition that he would consider a debate on the sale of *Times* Newspapers? As the issues raised are so important, they cannot be brushed aside. Will he give favourable consideration to that debate?

Mr Biffen: There have been a number of parliamentary exchanges on this matter and questions have been answered. In the light of that, I do not feel able to guarantee to offer any Government time for such a debate.

Carron case in US a 'bizarre affair'

ULSTER

The case involving Owen Carron and Danny Morrison in the United States could only be described as a bizarre affair, Mr James Prior, Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, said during Commons questions.

Dr Brian Wawhiney (Peterborough, C) had asked if the Secretary of State would ask the US Government to appeal against the sentences delivered on the two men in order to more effectively counter adverse propaganda and publicity.

Mr Prior: I am certain we ought to draw a sharp differentiation between the views of the administration and the views of the Department of Justice in this respect.

As to whether or not there should be any further representations from us about an appeal, I think it is a matter for the administration.

Earlier, in reply to Rev Martin Smyth (Belfast South, UOP), Mr Prior said that during his recent visit to the US he had found a growing understanding of the problems of the UK in its attitude to Northern Ireland.

But for all that (he added), some of the results of the few hours I had extremely offensive.

Maze prison security tightened

The locking device on the main gate of the Maze prison had been improved and further protection had been given to the prison officer in the main control room of each H block following the mass escape of prisoners on September 25. Mr James Prior, Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, said during Commons questions.

Asked when he expected to receive the report of Sir James Hennessy on the break out, Mr Prior said: I understand from Sir James Hennessy that the report of the inquiry has been obtained and is now being analysed. However, further inquiries could be necessary and while I know that Sir James and his team are continuing to give the inquiry the fullest priority, I cannot comment substantively on security at the Maze Prison, except to assure the House that some improvements are being effected in the light of the experience gained on September 25.

Mr Michael Brown (Brigg and Cleethorpes, C): Is it possible to outline to some extent the nature of the changes in the security measures that have been taken at the Maze Prison?

Mr Prior: There have been two improvements. The first is to the locking device for the main gate and the other is to give further protection for the prison officer in the main control room of each H block. During the mass escape, which occurred during the outbreak, these are the two so far, but it is early days.

Mr John Watson (Skipton and Ripon, C): What is the ratio between prisoners and prison officers in Northern Ireland and how does this compare with England and Wales?

Mr Prior: There are 3,000 prison officers at the Maze, 2,500 prisoners and at the Maze, 1,000 prison officers to 850 prisoners which is more than a one to one ratio.

A minister denied in the House of Lords that the 1967 Abortion Act was being abused and that abortion on demand was now available.

The Government had been asked by Lord Robertson of Oakridge (Ind) what was its response to the call by the Church of England General Synod, supported by a majority of 756 to 2, for a Government-sponsored Bill to amend the Act to restrict the number of abortions.

Lord Glenarthur, Under Secretary of State for Health and Social Security, replied that the Government respected the conviction which underlaid the General Synod's vote.

We believe however (he said) that abortion is a subject on which Parliament should be free to vote according to individual consciences. Accordingly the Government will continue to leave possible changes in the law on abortion to individual initiatives.

The Earl of Longford (Lab) recalled that the 1967 Act went through the House after assurances were given that there would not be abortion on demand. In many cases, however, it was and the Act was being completely abused, he said.

Lord Glenarthur: I reject what he says. This is not the case. It is not being widely abused and statistics which come to the department would verify that fact.

Preventing another straw inferno

HOUSE OF LORDS

A call for an outright ban on straw burning was rejected by Lord Belstead, Minister of State for Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, when he replied to a debate in the House of Lords early today (Thursday). He said that outlets for the straw would not suddenly appear just because of a ban on burning which would leave millions of tons of surplus straw lying around the countryside awaiting disposal.

Lord Alport (C), who opened the debate, said he was concerned with the existence of a public nuisance which could and should be stopped and by which a small minority of the community imposed an intolerable burden during a particular period of the year upon their neighbours and the public as a whole.

The National Farmers Union proposed a regulated code of conduct should be used to control straw and stubble burning for, say, three years and a system of licensing should be introduced. There should be a much improved and more effective research effort into finding alternative use for straw, with particular reference to converting it into pulp for paper making, using the experience of other European countries such as Denmark.

The industry should be called upon to help by a levy on arable land and at the end of three years, stubble and straw burning should be made illegal, with severe financial penalties.

Lady Stedman (SDP) said that however fully a field was burnt there could be no avoiding sending ash and smut into the sky to fall miles away upon some unsuspecting and justifiable angry citizen and make a mess of washing and freshly painted houses. Industrialists were forced to spend money to reduce pollution, so why not farmers? The Bishop of Bath and Wells, the Rt Rev John Bickersteth, said they must tighten up and deal properly with the enforcing of a code of practice and make that code into law. Then the prosecutions must begin. Such figures as he had seen were pathetically small.

Even those farmers who were brought to court face a maximum fine of only £1,000. The minimum penalty should probably be around the £5,000 mark. There was no mileage in an immediate ban on burning.

Lady Nicol (Lab) said stubble burning was regularly reviewed and because of the particular problem resulting from the unusual weather conditions in July, August and early September this year's review had been more detailed and broadly based. The worry was that the debate had emerged from the review. Ways of improving the feeding value of straw, processing it into briquettes and making use of it for paper and board were already known, but the uptake of these developments was restricted.

More district councils than ever before intended to prosecute for offences under by-laws this year. A great deal of research and development was being devoted to alternative uses for straw.

Parliament today Commons (9.30): Video Recordings Bill, second reading.

Aid for owners of defective houses

HOUSING

A Bill giving financial aid to the owners of prefabricated reinforced concrete houses built in Great Britain before 1960, which have been found to be gradually deteriorating due to the method of construction, will be introduced as soon as possible after December 16 when local authority associations have had the opportunity to comment on the proposals. Mr Ian Gow, Minister of State for Housing and Construction, said in a statement to the Commons.

He said the decision followed a study by the Building Research Establishment into the most common types of house involved, the Boot, Cornish Unit, Orbit, Unity, Wales and Woolway.

The great majority of houses examined were found to be structurally sound and there were significant differences in the rate of deterioration between and within type. But all houses of these types would eventually be affected by cracking, as reported last week.

Mr Gow said: I stress that the Building Research Establishment's studies are only of prefabricated reinforced concrete houses. The study has no implications for houses of non-traditional design which use other load bearing materials.

Private owners will find themselves in a difficult position as a result of the effect of these findings on the value of their houses. The Government has decided to introduce early legislation to provide a scheme of assistance to private owners of houses sold by the public sector and since found to be defective or potentially defective.

This will be on lines broadly similar to those of the scheme for owners of Airey houses which is already in existence. The essential feature of the proposals will be a right of assistance.

Later Mr Gow said the other six types of prefabricated reinforced concrete houses which the BRE had been asked to study were the Parkinson, Reema, Sient, Tarran (including the Dorran, Myton and Newland variants), Wings and Whiteson-Fairhurst (including the Lindsay (Ayrshire) variant) types.

Asked by Mr Robert Jones (West Hertfordshire, C) why 1960 was chosen for the cut-off date, Mr Gow said prefabricated reinforced concrete houses of the types dealt with in his statement were not built in any significant numbers in the public sector after 1960.

Mr Eric Hoffer, chief Opposition spokesman on housing and construction (Liverpool, Walton, Lab) said the statement was disgraceful. The Opposition has made no order requiring the local authority to give assistance. This power will enable local authorities to assist where there are local problems.

The local authority associations will now be consulted about these proposals. I will be asking them to comment before December 16 on a consultation document which is being sent to them today.

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Miners' leaders brush aside pleas for pay offer ballot

By Paul Routledge, Labour Editor

Miners' leaders yesterday brushed aside appeals from the National Coal Board for an early ballot on the "final" 5.2 per cent pay offer and agreed to continue their two-week overtime ban indefinitely.

Despite rumblings from some moderates the National Union of Mineworkers' executive voted unanimously to keep up the limited industrial action that is costing the board £10m a week in lost output.

Mr Arthur Scargill, union president, said: "If anything, there is a hardening of attitudes". Production is about 400,000 tonnes lower this week, but the coal board insists that all customers are being supplied and the industry is saving on the costs of adding unwanted coal to stock.

No further talks are planned on the board's "first and final" offer of basic rate increases ranging from £4.90 to £6.80 a week. The overtime ban is not due to be reviewed until the next monthly meeting of the national executive on December 8.

Nominations for a new general secretary will also close then. Voting will take place by secret ballot on January 1.

20 and the odds are increasingly on the official left candidate, Mr Peter Heathfield, aged 54, secretary of the Derbyshire miners.

His main rival is expected to be Mr John Walsh, moderate area agent in the North Yorkshire coalfield. The winner will take office in March and work together with Mr Lawrence Daly, who is taking early retirement for health reasons.

Mr Scargill said that the executive of 25 members was satisfied with the way the ban is being implemented in all coalfields.

Asked about the proposal by Mr Ian McGregor, NCB chairman, that the pay offer should be put to an immediate ballot, the miners' president said: "If he is interested in a ballot then I am perfectly willing to have one on whether the men want him to continue as chairman of the board".

The NUM had by working a five-day week exposed "undermining" in the industry. If the board wanted to cut out overtime completely, it should employ 25,000 unemployed young people rather than making men in the industry work longer, Mr Scargill said.

Heroin trade rise blamed on refugees

By Peter Evans and Hasan Akhtar

The Afghan crisis is being blamed in Pakistan as one reason for the big rise in heroin coming into Britain which was attacked by Lord Lane, Lord Chief Justice, on Tuesday.

Afghan refugees who have fled to Pakistan have their trading partners over the border, part of a divided community struggling for survival. But evidence has been produced by officials of the Narcotics Control Board to refute Lord Lane's charge that nothing was being done to stop the trade in Pakistan.

"I wait, so far in vain," he said on Tuesday, "for any indication that steps are being taken at any level to stop this flood of death at its source".

The officials say the record of poppy yield of a few years ago has been reduced tenfold, measures to control drugs have already resulted in violent resistance and new penalties are now being contemplated by the Pakistan Government.

It has sought the help of tribal chiefs of the North West Frontier Province to secure the dismantling of about 30 laboratories producing heroin.

The government is considering raising the maximum penalty for drugs possession and trafficking from the present three years hard labour in jail to life imprisonment.

British customs officials said that last year the Indian sub-continent and in particular Pakistan accounted for 84 per cent of the total heroin seized



Age of technology: Mr Harold Macmillan, aged 89, the former Prime Minister, with Sir Clive Sinclair, the inventor in London yesterday to launch a range of educational computer software for children. The programmes, using animal characters and lively games, will help children aged five to seven learn to read, using a combination of fun and work. Another set of programmes will explain scientific ideas to eight to 12 year olds. The software will be on sale before Christmas after a business deal signed between Macmillan Educational and Sinclair Research.

Future of Kenwood House in dispute

By David Hewson, Arts Correspondent

Hampstead Heath's best known sight, Robert Adams' Kenwood House, is once more at the centre of controversy over its future. Lord Moynie, the grandson of Lord Iveagh who left the house to the nation on his death in 1928, has pledged his opposition to government plans to transfer control of the house to the Victoria and Albert Museum.

The future control of Kenwood is in doubt because of the Government's proposal to scrap

the Greater London Council which now runs it. The GLC is no favourite of the Friends of Kenwood, largely through a vague threat to sell off some of its valuable art collection to raise money for social purposes two years ago, but the pressure group wants to establish the house under independent control.

Lord Moynie, the poet, novelist, and playwright Bryan Guinness, will be among a deputation from the Friends to

Kenwood to the Arts Minister, Lord Gowrie, on November 23.

"I feel that my grandfather, in leaving Kenwood to the nation when our private funds were inadequate to maintain it, meant it to go to a public authority."

"No small local government body would be able to fund it. Therefore the right solution, if there is to be no GLC, is that it should be funded by central government and have its own body of trustees."

'Shamateur' libel award quashed

J P R Williams, the Welsh rugby player, had his £20,000 libel damages over allegations of "shamateurism" taken away by the Court of Appeal yesterday.

The award, made by a High Court jury last year, was quashed and a new action was ordered, at which fresh evidence will be heard alleging that Mr Williams received "boot money" for wearing Adidas products.

At the libel hearing it had been alleged that he had infringed his amateur status by planning to keep the cash from the sale of his book, *JPR - an Autobiography*.

After a four-day hearing the jury accepted his claim that it has been his intention to give the money to charity and set up a trust to open a sports clinic in his home town of Bridgend.

The damages were awarded against *The Daily Telegraph*, its former rugby writer, John Reason, and its editor, Mr William Deedes, who denied libel in two articles in February and March, 1979, under the headings "JPR's gain may be Wales' loss" and "The board should act now to halt shamateurism".

Lord Justice Stephenson, sitting with Lord Justice O'Connor and Lord Justice Purchas, said yesterday the appeal would be allowed and a new action ordered because of misdirections to the jury by the trial judge Mr Justice Russell.

The allegation was denied by Mr Williams, aged 33, now an orthopaedic surgeon.

Child found after car hijack

Mrs Christine Mitchell, aged 38, was forced from her car in Stockport, Greater Manchester, yesterday by a youth carrying a shotgun who had stolen £2,500 in wages and who escaped with her daughter Zara, aged two, still in the back seat.

The youth had grabbed the money from two employees from Ironside Lubricants in Stockport as they carried it into the company's offices yesterday morning. He jumped into a vehicle, which crashed as he tried to escape. He then forced a red Simca saloon to stop, ordered the woman driver to get out, and drive away. The child was found safe and well about an hour later wandering in the street in Offerton, about two miles away.

Welsh blaze

Police are treating as suspicious a fire yesterday which severely damaged a 200-year-old cottage at Llangadwaladr, near Aberffraw, on Anglesey, which was used as a second home by Mr Charles Wyatt Warren, a Welsh artist.

Soldiers hurt

Six soldiers aged 17 and 18 were seriously hurt yesterday in an accident in fog on the A1 near Carterick, Gamison, North Yorkshire. Their lorry and a coach were involved in a collision.

Laker case can go to Lords

The liquidator of Laker Airways was yesterday given leave to appeal to the House of Lords against a ruling that he must drop British Airways and British Caledonian from an anti-trust action being brought against them in the United States.

Lord Diplock, sitting with Lord Fraser of Tullybelton and Lord Brandon of Oakbrook, gave the liquidator, Mr Christopher Morris, of the accountants, Touche Ross, leave to challenge the Court of Appeal decision in July granting the airlines an injunction ordering Laker to do its best to "procure" that the two were dropped from the action.

The US action, in which seven other international airlines are being sued for more than \$1,000m (£660m) damages, alleges that Sir Freddie Laker's Skytrain operation which offered cut-price transatlantic flights, crashed because of a conspiracy by competitors.

Laker was also given leave to argue his claim that the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry overstepped his powers in making an order under the Protection of Trading Interests Act, 1980, which effectively prevented the two British airlines complying with any orders made against them in America.

Ex-footballer is jailed

Dave Smith, the former Scotland, Rangers and Aberdeen footballer, aged 39, was jailed for three years by the High Court in Edinburgh yesterday for embezzling £49,000, while working as a credit controller with an Aberdeen timber merchants.

The court was told that Smith, of Brodero Drive, Banchory, Aberdeenshire, lost the money gambling. Since his early twenties he had lost £200,000 through his gambling addiction.

Sportsmen shoot back at critics

By John Young

Agriculture Correspondent Official conservation bodies were criticized yesterday for ignoring the role of sporting interests in preserving the countryside and its wildlife.

The British Association for Shooting and Conservation believes that it is time for the millions of people who enjoy field sports to take the offensive against what it calls a vociferous minority determined to abolish them.

But it also feels that sportsmen are being cold-shouldered by the environmental quangos, perhaps because the latter do not want to be seen to be associated with hunting and shooting.

Mr John Anderson, the association's director, said yesterday that *The Conservation and Development Programme for the United Kingdom*, published last June, devoted less than one of its 496 pages to the significance of game and sporting interests.

The document, the official British response to the United Nations' World Conservation Strategy, and was largely the work of bodies such as the World Wildlife Fund, the Countryside Commission, the Nature Conservancy Council and the Royal Society of Arts.

"We think that this great study would have been much better if it had addressed itself fully, and without apparent political bias, towards all the rural resources users, not just an accepted and selected few," Mr Anderson said.

Contrary to popular belief, shooting sportsmen were drawn from all walks of life.

Mr John Swift, the association's director of conservation research, pointed out that less than 10 per cent of the 30 million acres of rural land in Britain was conserved by public bodies.

The remainder was in the hands of private and institutional landowners and their tenants.

Eurocommunists widen party conflict

By Rupert Morris

The most serious ideological rift for many years within the Communist Party of Great Britain widened yesterday with the publication of resolutions for the party's thirty-eighth congress, to be held at Hammersmith Town Hall, west London, at the weekend.

Although the party's membership has declined over the past year from 18,458 to 15,691, it remains a potent force within the union movement, and any substantial policy change might have far-reaching implications for British industry.

The central conflict, which has been simmering for several months, is between the traditionalists on the hard left who believe in mobilizing the industrial working class, and the Eurocommunists who wish to spread the party's message through the peace movements, women's organizations and other contemporary lobby groups.

The Eurocommunists, who describe their internal opposition as "sectarian", have a majority on the party executive and wish to see the party's newspaper, the *Morning Star*, give unequivocal support to the executive's views. They also want to have a say in the managerial affairs of the newspaper.

To that end, the leadership is not proposing to endorse the

nominations for executive seats of Mr Tony Chater, the *Morning Star* editor; Mr David Whitfield, his deputy; and Mr Mick Costello, the paper's industrial correspondent.

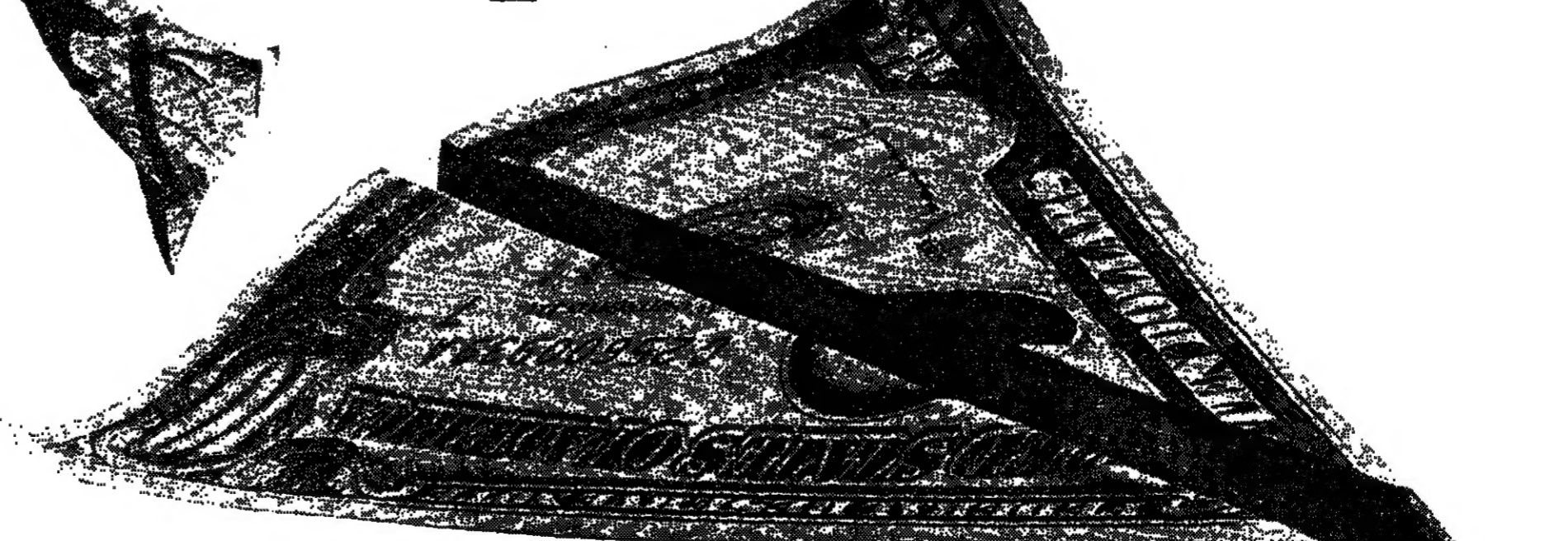
These moves will be fiercely resisted, however, by a group of activists led by Mr Costello, until recently the party's industrial organizer; Mr Derek Robinson, the dismissed BL shop steward; and Mr Kenneth Gill, general secretary of Tass, the white-collar section of the engineering workers' union.

They believe that by espousing "trendy" causes and neglecting potential support within the trade unions, the party leadership is playing into the hands of employers and the Government.

Although the leadership is expected to carry the day on most issues an unexpected reverse recently when party members voted against its recommendations for membership of the People's Press Printing Society, the cooperative which owns the *Morning Star*.

Whichever way the votes go this weekend, the PPPS seems certain to continue its opposition to greater executive control over the *Morning Star*.

200 million landings at Heathrow that no-one complains about.



The Treasury would no doubt term them invisible exports.

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The silent paper squadrons of yen, dollars and deutschmarks that are bringing in this country an awful lot of money.

In 1982, Heathrow topped a truly remarkable £200 million in foreign exchange earnings.

Putting us up amongst the very biggest contributors to the UK balance of payments.

Just over £100 million nett was earned from airline ticket sales to overseas visitors.

£57 million came in landing and parking charges to foreign airlines.

£37 million more was generated through our ever-expanding Duty Free operation.

And over £13 billion worth of goods passed through our computer-controlled Cargo Terminal (about 12% of the UK's total trade value).

In other words, Heathrow is doing very nicely, thank you.

This isn't just good news for the national economy.

It's tidings of great joy for the people who actually use the place: the foot-sore and jet-lagged airline passengers.

For every penny of profit we make out of Heathrow is ploughed straight back into new construction and improvements.

That's how we have paid for the recent dramatic facelift to all three of our Terminals.

That's where the money came from for all the new car parks, all those extra moving walkways and the spacious Euro lounge.

And that's precisely how we're financing the building of the brand new Terminal 4 situated on the south side of the airport.

At Heathrow, we're doing everything we can to make the jets quieter.

But we have no complaints about booming business.

British Airports **Heathrow**

Britain accused of trying to destroy EEC's foundation

From Ian Murray, Athens

Britain was accused of trying to "destroy the very foundations of the Community" yesterday by an angry Mr. Easton Thorn, president of the European Commission. He was outraged at the way Britain had rejected the latest Commission proposals for breaking the deadlock over fixing the scale of contributions to the EEC budget.

He made time during the intricate session of negotiations between EEC foreign and finance ministers here to claim that the Commission scheme still offered the only chance of salvation to the Community. He was clearly nettled at the way in which his ideas had been mauled by Sir Geoffrey Howe, the Foreign Secretary, during the first session of the special Council the previous evening.

The British proposal, he said, "is a system for which it will never be possible to obtain a majority in the parliament of our 10 countries. To institutionalize the 'fair return' in this way would destroy the very foundations of the Community. If they were introduced, the Community would not be the same thing tomorrow."

The British delegation tended to take this as a compliment. Its view is that the Community currently spends less per head on the British population than in any other country in the community.

The unofficial figures show that the Community currently spends less per head on the British population than in any other country in the community. The Commission president's remarks were dismissed as "a nonsense and a rather surprising reaction".

As the talks dragged on, however, it became clear that every other member state was waiting for Britain to move away from its very clear hardline position before starting negotiations in earnest. There was still a widespread feeling that Britain could not possibly cling indefinitely to its present unpopular argument.

But Sir Geoffrey and Mr. Michael Jopling, who arrived for a special session of agriculture ministers to argue for reform of the common agricultural policy, both stuck rigidly to the British line.

Until Britain was required to pay no more than a fair share

towards the Community budget, and until there were rock-solid guarantees that farm spending would be contained, they would discuss nothing else.

Unofficial figures based on the latest Commission proposals tended to indicate that Britain was exaggerating the size of the problem.

By including the system already put forward for reducing the amount of value-added tax that Britain would have to pay, the figures show that Britain would have automatically received £615m worth of relief from the new proposals last year. This compares with the £675m it has eventually been paid in rebates for 1982.

Mr. Thorn emphasized, however, that there were still no real figures on the table. The proposals were simply a strategy for tackling the problem. What had to be done was to negotiate the figures for insertion into the plan.

Sir Geoffrey was not impressed with this argument. The only argument the British people understood, he said, was how much money Britain paid to Brussels. That, therefore, was the only acceptable basis for any new formula.

The unofficial figures show that the Community currently spends less per head on the British population than in any other country in the community.

In 1982 payments were about £24 per head in Britain, compared with £37 in France, which was almost exactly the Community average. Luxembourg, with payments averaging £400 a head, gained the most and Ireland, with £152 a head, has been among the most successful.

The effect of the new proposals could be to inflate the size of Britain's gains by nearly £4 a head, thereby reducing the size of Britain's grievance. The Commission has claimed that this would be an extreme interpretation of its proposals, but the Treasury is highly suspicious that the whole exercise is designed to massage the figures very deliberately to Britain's disadvantage.

EEC SPENDING

	B	DK	WG	GR	F	IRL	I	L	NL	UK	Avg
1. Farm spending in each member state in 1982 expressed in millions of European Currency Units (ECU)	529	547	1910	684	2830	495	2596	2.6	1402	1277	
2. Farm spending in 1982 according to the commission's proposed method of reallocating benefits according to the proportion of the Community crop produced in each member state expressed in millions of ECU	495	478	2206	613	3224	282	2464	12	920	1655	
3. Total Community spending in each member state in 1982 expressed in millions of ECU	1251	624	2736	1012	3503	819	3704	281	1722	2234	
4. Number of ECUs spent by the Community in each country per head of the population under existing methods of calculation	763	565	3032	942	4000	688	3574	215	1894	2717	
5. Number of ECUs spent by the Community in each country per head of population according to the new Commission proposal	126	124	44	105	65	288	68	702	112	42	
6. ECU conversion rate in 1982 was 57p	77	111	49	98	74	206	63	537	78	48	64

1. Farm spending in each member state in 1982 expressed in millions of European Currency Units (ECU).
2. Farm spending in 1982 according to the commission's proposed method of reallocating benefits according to the proportion of the Community crop produced in each member state expressed in millions of ECU.
3. Total Community spending in each member state in 1982 expressed in millions of ECU.
4. Number of ECUs spent by the Community in each country per head of the population under existing methods of calculation.
5. Number of ECUs spent by the Community in each country per head of population according to the new Commission proposal.
The ECU conversion rate in 1982 was 57p.
Key: B=Belgium; DK=Denmark; WG=West Germany; GR=Greece; F=France; IRL=Ireland; I=Italy; L=Luxembourg; NL=The Netherlands.

Danish MPs back Nato membership

From Christopher Fallett, Copenhagen

The Danish Parliament yesterday reaffirmed its support for membership of Nato, calling upon the Conservative-led minority Government to maintain Denmark's nuclear-free status within the Alliance and work actively for the establishment of a nuclear-free zone in Scandinavia.

Speaking in a debate on national security, Hans Engell, the Minister of Defence, said the Government would continue to support Nato's current nuclear strategy, leaving the door open for possible future consideration of nuclear-free zones in Europe in consultation with its allies. The motion was passed by 57 votes to 13 with 72 abstentions.

Denmark's Nato allies this week rejected outright its request for a special meeting of alliance foreign ministers to reappraise Western deployment policy.

Malta holds up accord at Helsinki

From Olii Kirinen, Helsinki

Five neutral countries presented a draft final document to the Helsinki preparatory conference, which is trying to agree on an agenda and timetable for the Stockholm conference on confidence and security building measures due to begin in January.

Most delegations wish the Helsinki meeting to end on Friday. This was however made doubtful by Mr. Evarist Saliba of Malta who again tries to bring non-participating Mediterranean countries closer to the security process. Western delegations objected strongly. Urgent negotiations began to find a compromise that would give these countries a chance to make an initial contribution but not more.

Mr. Saliba said that the neutral draft was "absolutely and unequivocally unacceptable", because it did not take account of any of Malta's demands.

Britain resists Unesco's new order

From Roger Beardwood, Paris

Britain and the US took a strong stand yesterday against moves in Unesco to impose the so-called "new world information and communication order". Most Western governments argue that this would threaten freedom of the press by making licensing of journalists mandatory.

Mr. Ray Whitney, Under-Secretary of State at the Foreign Office, told the commission debating the proposals that Britain was 100 per cent against legal norms that would define "responsible and irresponsible" journalism. The proposals envisage withdrawal of licences from "irresponsible" journalists.

In an interview, Mr. Whitney said that the key issue was who would decide what was responsible and otherwise. The system

could become a weapon for governments determined to shackle the press.

On the other hand, Mr. Whitney emphasized that Britain was strongly in favour of helping third world countries to strengthen their communications and information systems.

Mr. Gregory Newell, US Assistant Secretary of State for International Organizations, warned the Unesco commission that if it tried to impose the new order, Washington would automatically withhold its contribution to the Unesco budget, which is a quarter of the total. The Beard Amendment prohibits America from supporting any organization that threatens freedom of the press.

Commission Four, which is considering the proposals, is

Lebanon: Marines relax as PLO fights on



Two faces of war: Marines at Beirut airport stand proudly behind a giant birthday cake to mark the Corps' 208th anniversary, and (right) a corporal carefully erects an extra barrier of barbed wire.

Shellfire shatters fragile Tripoli truce

From Robert Fisk, Beirut

The short-lived ceasefire to the Palestinian civil war round the northern Lebanese city of Tripoli collapsed yesterday afternoon as Mr. Yasser Arafat accused Syria of bringing an armoured brigade to the help of the Palestinian rebels trying to destroy him.

The truce, arranged by the Kuwaiti Foreign Minister after talks in Damascus, had lasted less than 24 hours, though the two sides had been bombarding each other in desultory fashion for much of the morning.

Even as Mr. Arafat was insisting that his own Palestine Liberation Organization guerrillas were abiding by the ceasefire, their Katyusha rocket-launchers could be

heard firing from the port area of the city. The official PLO leader - "official" because most of the Palestinian forces in Lebanon are now ranged against him - said Syrian troops would attack Tripoli soon from three sides.

Throughout the day Mr. Arafat avoided any suggestion that he was about to leave Tripoli. The means to do so were offered by the Italians during the morning, when Signor Giovanni Spadolini, the Defence Minister, announced in Rome that the missile cruiser Orsa and the destroyer Ardeur had been ordered to the Mediterranean with the multi-national force - had been ordered to evacuate the PLO

leader and his senior entourage. If asked to do so.

All Mr. Arafat would say was that he was "willing and ready" to leave Tripoli, if requested to do so by the city's religious and civic leaders.

Sheikh Saad Shaban, the Sunni Muslim spiritual leader in Tripoli, has appealed to President Assad of Syria to abide by a ceasefire, but has given a warning that Sunni nationalist militias would join PLO loyalists in fighting the Syrians if Tripoli came under wholesale attack.

● WASHINGTON: Mr. Casper Weinberger, the Defence Secretary, told a press conference here that a defeat for Mr. Arafat would not be of military significance (Nicholas

Ashford writes). He felt the PLO had ceased to be a significant force since its guerrillas were evacuated from Beirut last year.

● JERUSALEM: The wave of arrest which has swept the Israeli-occupied West Bank, in protest against the Syrian-backed assault on Mr. Arafat, still a hero for thousands of West Bankers, continued yesterday (Christopher Walker writes).

Petrol bombs were thrown at an Israeli bus near the West Bank town of Ramallah and another at an Israeli car near Bethlehem, but no casualties were caused.

Stone-throwing attacks on Jewish targets continued in Nablus.

End of Israel call-up test eases tension

From Christopher Walker, Jerusalem

One of many factors for tension in the Middle East was eliminated yesterday when Israel's military command announced the end of the mass call-up exercise launched on Wednesday involving tens of thousands of men.

A terse statement yesterday said: "The exercise was part of a series held at irregular intervals to improve the efficiency of the call-up process. A first analysis shows that the response was fast and orderly... The last reservists are now returning to their homes."

The controversial exercise was held in the face of extreme Syrian nervousness, apparently unallayed by assurances passed through the UN and other diplomatic channels that Israel had no aggressive intent.

The Government's decision to persevere with it after Monday's full mobilization in

Syria was seen as part of a war of nerves. Israel's military strength is heavily dependent on the efficiency with which its largely reserve army can be brought to the battle front.

The last exercise of the kind was held in February, 1981. According to General David Ivri, deputy chief of staff, Wednesday's operation - which also involved the requisitioning of hundreds of private vehicles through code words broadcast by local radio - was needed to test recently developed methods of speeding up mobilization.

In a separate development, Mr. Moshe Arens, the Defence Minister, told the West German magazine Stern that Israel was likely to "extend Israeli law" to the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip if the plan for Palestinian autonomy outlined in the Camp David treaty could not be implemented.

Optimism grows for restoring Cairo link

From Robert Holloway, Cairo

Israeli officials in Cairo are optimistic that the first high-level contacts with Egypt for 18 months will result in the return of an Egyptian ambassador to Tel Aviv.

"There is a will on both sides to resume contact," an embassy official said on Wednesday after Mr. David Kimche, Director-General of the Foreign Ministry, arrived and conferred with Dr. Boutros Ghali, the Egyptian Minister for Foreign Affairs.

Egyptian officials said the talks centred on the dispute over Taba, a small town in eastern Sinai which Israel refused to hand back to Egypt when it returned the rest of the peninsula in April last year, under terms of the 1979 peace treaty.

Another important topic was the status of some 5,000 Palestinians stranded in a camp at Rafah, northern Sinai, after the Israeli withdrawal. They had been moved out of the Gaza Strip before the return of Sinai.

Egyptian officials said the talks between Dr. Boutros Ghali and Mr. Kimche were "designed to re-energize the process" which stalled when Egypt recalled its ambassador from Tel Aviv in September last year, in protest at the Israeli Army's move into West Beirut and the massacre by Lebanese gunmen of hundreds of Palestinian refugees there.

Egypt at first said the condition for resuming full relations was that Israel should announce a timetable for pulling all its forces out of Lebanon, but since then it was intimated that Israel must also show willingness to compromise over Taba and stop building settlements on the West Bank.

US wants to improve 'hot line'

From Henry Stanhope, Diplomatic Correspondent, Washington

United States officials are preparing to reopen talks about improving the "hot line" between Moscow and Washington for the first time since the South Korean airliner crisis two months ago. They also want to establish an international system of consultation in the event of a nuclear "accident" to ensure that nations would not overreact.

Proposals to make better use of the "hot line" were put forward by President Reagan a year ago and the last in a series of contacts between special delegations from the superpowers took place in August.

If progress had been swifter and the US recommendations enacted, the airliner incident might well have been avoided. As it is officials are tactfully trying to avoid any "we told

you so" note in their dealings with Moscow.

The direct communications link is not a scarier telephone of the kind which figures in most people's imagination but a Telex channel which has been operated from the Pentagon since 1963.

President has spoken to President on a number of occasions, including the Six-Day War in 1967, although the White House incumbent does not actually have to drive to the Pentagon and punch the message out himself.

A team of operators man the machine and test it every hour of the day, and night, sending poems or friendly inquiries to their Moscow counterparts, to ensure all is working as it should. Mrs. Dobrynin, wife of veteran Soviet Ambassador in

Washington, was a recent visitor to the control room.

Now the Americans want to make use of modern technology by introducing a facility to transmit maps and pictures over the wire. They also want to improve the communications in a similar way with their own embassy in Moscow and between the Kremlin and the Russian Mission in Washington.

The third of the four proposals mooted last year was to establish similar links between military commands on either side. This is the kind of facility which might have allayed Soviet fears over the airliner, according to officials.

The American idea of a multilateral consultation link-up will require careful sound-ing-out of countries during the next few months.

Another secret file pops up

From Mohsin Ali, Washington

Another secret State Department document was found on Wednesday during a search at a maximum-security prison near Washington, officials of the department said. It was the third discovery of classified documents sent inadvertently to the prison in a shipment of surplus furniture.

Mr. George Shultz, the Secretary of State, has ordered an urgent investigation of how a safe full of top-secret documents got to a prison in Virginia, about 25 miles southwest of Washington.

The officials said they were still not certain whether other documents were still missing or had fallen into unfriendly hands.

Disciplinary action will be taken against those responsible for the security leak, unprecedented in State Department history, when the investigation is complete.

World church leaders pay tribute to Luther

From Eisele, East Germany

World religious leaders joined the East German Protestant church at the birthplace of Martin Luther yesterday to mark the 500th anniversary of his birth.

Delegations from more than 20 countries attended ecumenical church services in the small town of Eisleben south of Berlin, much of which has been renovated to mark the anniversary. Several thousand people gathered in the town square later for a ceremony by lantern light.

Herr Erich Honecker, the East German leader, who was expected to attend the celebration services, stayed away and church leaders put this down to displeasure with the strongly independent line on disarmament taken by the country's Protestant church.

Cooperation between the separate state and church committees organizing the celebrations has produced statements by both that they want to keep on good terms but little

evidence of improved relations. Ties are strained principally by church followers' concern at what they see as increasing militarization of East German society and a general refusal of the authorities to allow them freedom of expression.

These differences were highlighted by a speech on Wednesday in East Berlin by Herr Gerald Götting, the deputy East German leader, who cited Luther in support of state policies including not only social welfare but also military defences.

Herr Götting was due to represent the state Luther committee yesterday but was injured in a 40-vehicle motorway crash on the way to Eisleben and his place was taken by Herr Ernst Mecklenburg, also a deputy chairman of the Council of State.

Luther's parents moved away from Eisleben soon after his birth on November 10, 1483, and he went to school at nearby Mansfeld, where Hans Luther was a copper miner.

Commentary

Geoffrey Smith

Foreign policy seems destined to play a critical part in another American presidential election. President Carter's failure to resolve the Iranian hostage crisis was one of the principal reasons why he was not re-elected in 1980. Now, with Lebanon and Grenada, Mr. Reagan's handling of foreign affairs is bound to have a big effect on his chances next year. He needs to strike a fine balance. He must avoid giving the impression of ineffectiveness which so crippled Mr. Carter, but he also has to be careful not to renege the old fears that he is at heart a trigger-happy President.

This is particularly important for women voters, who have significantly less confidence in him than men have. This may be partly because of his lack of interest in women's rights. Mr. Reagan will never look convincing as a feminist sympathizer. But much of his difficulty is that he is able to alarm women in their roles as wives and mothers.

They are afraid that with him as President there is rather more danger of their husbands' and sons' being sent off to the wars. If his policies feed this anxiety he could be in trouble next November.

So far he has managed pretty well in domestic political terms. There was a moment just after the Beirut massacre when it seemed that he might be about to cut the same ineffective figure as Mr. Carter. But Grenada changed all that.

It gave the US the victory it needed. With every day that passes the political advantages to President Reagan become more evident. The benefits of the operation are practical and immediate. The liabilities are long-term and intangible.

The assets have been emphasized by a brilliant exercise in public relations. Mr. Reagan himself has been at his most persuasive. All the talk this past week has been of having success with the Cuban challenge just in time of disbanding the task force withdrawing all American troops by Christmas if possible, and of plans for the new democracy.

The critics have had the ground cut from under them. When an old political pro like Speaker Tip O'Neill turns full circle to announce his conversion to the value of the operation, it shows which way the political winds are blowing. If the election were held now I have not the slightest doubt that foreign policy would be a big asset for Mr. Reagan.

But will it continue to be an advantage? I do not believe that any amount of debate will change American popular opinion on Grenada. Public approval will diminish only if the facts change.

If things turn sour on the island it will no longer seem a neat, surgical operation. If there were to be further, more ambitious military actions by the US in Central America, Grenada might then come to be regarded not as a first success story but as the first move in a new and more dangerous sequence of events.

But one consequence of Grenada is that Mr. Reagan will be under pressure to take risks to prove that he can act strongly in Central America.

Lebanon presents a more hazardous political problem. The American temperament is not suited to peace-keeping operations. According to the national tradition, soldiers are for fighting and wars are for winning. From Korea onwards, the US has been uncomfortable with military engagements along more complex lines.

There is an underlying unease in the US about the Lebanon operation now. If there is a succession of further American casualties, even without anything nearly as dramatic as a repetition of the Beirut massacre, unease will be augmented. Mr. Reagan would then be vulnerable if he simply left American troops to be shot at.

But any retaliation would have to be carefully judged if it were not to raise political alarm bells at home. Many Americans would be nervous about either raising the level of force to a higher plane or involving the US in a military operation from which it could not easily disengage.

The immediate preoccupation of Lebanon and Grenada are not the only international issues that matter politically to the US. If Mr. Reagan was able to reach a disarmament agreement with the Soviet Union he would earn a valuable electoral bonus. But the political significance of Grenada is that he does not now need to achieve further foreign policy successes. He just has to keep out of trouble.

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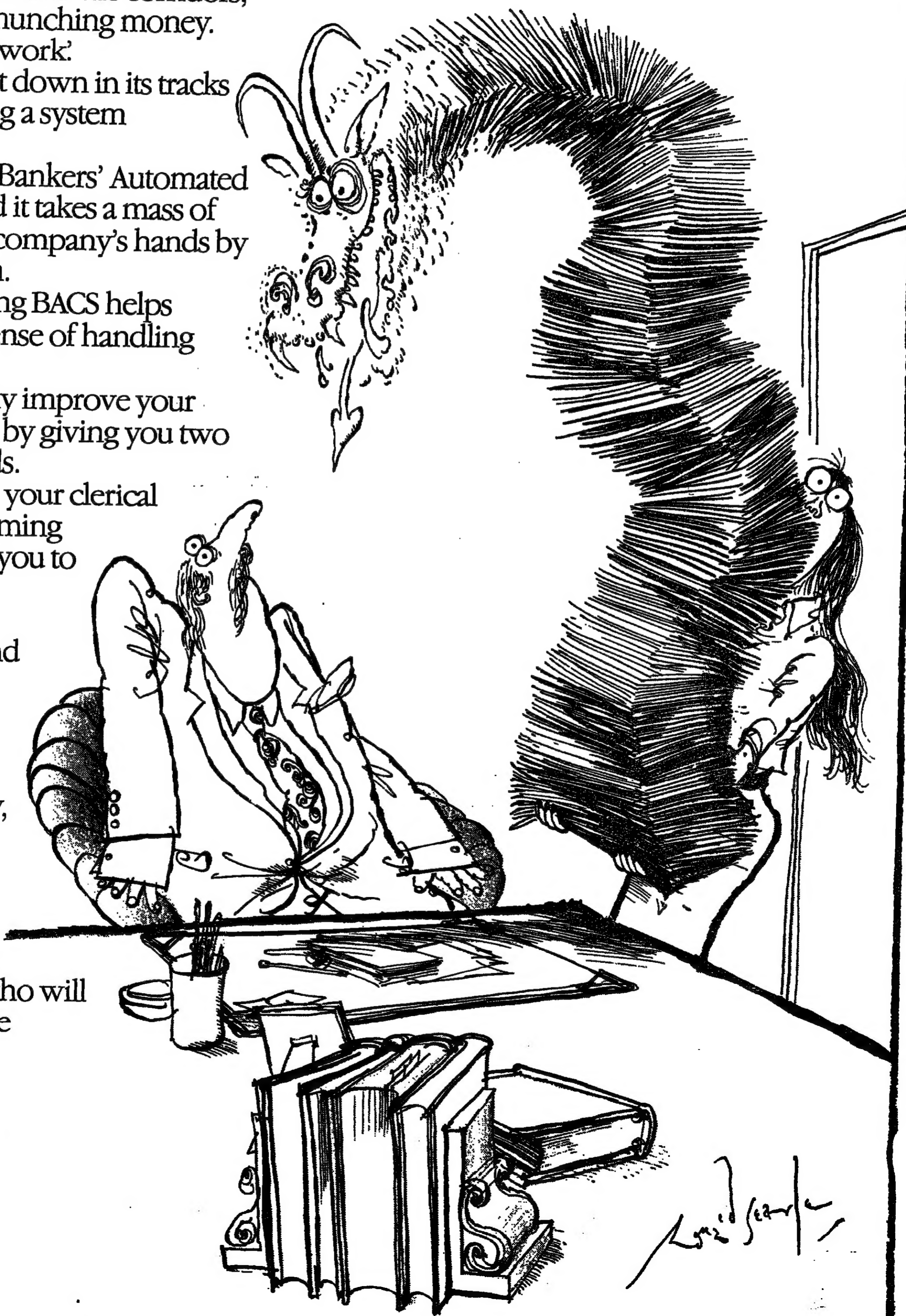
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The Grenada aftermath

Americans wonder how long to stay

From Trevor Fishlock, St George's, Grenada

It seemed straightforward: American troops in, a rotten government destroyed, a time of fear ended, Cubans expelled and an interim administration installed to hold the ring until elections can be held.

But both the Americans and the interim administration face a tangle of difficulties. Grenada's funds are low and its economy weak. It badly needs help.

The crucial question for the Americans is how long to stay before their welcome begins to fray and how much money to pump in to help to regenerate the economy without making the island dependent. They have to strike a balance between obligation, economic first aid and the long-term interests both of themselves and the islanders.

They also have to decide quickly on the future of the half-built airport that President Reagan saw as a Cuba-Soviet base and a threat to his country, but which many Grenadians believe is a vital component of their economic advance.

The queues of people waiting to see bank managers in St George's are evidence of the anxiety many Grenadians feel. After the terrible day of October 19, when crowds were fired on by soldiers, and Mr Maurice Bishop, the former Prime Minister, was killed, people

rushed to the banks to withdraw their money.

Inflation is about 15 per cent and people seek and usually get more time to pay back loans. The sharp decline in business and loss of income during the crisis will reduce tax revenues. The recent upheaval may also damage the tourist business.

The Bishop Government went in for a number of expensive projects to improve the economy and had to increase taxes. It also set much store by the airport at Point Salines, due for completion next spring. The island has only a small airport, at Pearis, and the new one was seen as vital for exploiting the tourist potential of an exquisitely beautiful island. It was expected that more hotels and better roads would follow.

Cubans were doing much of the construction work and the British company, Plessey, had an £8.5m contract to install radar and navigation aids, air-conditioning and other equipment. Some of the delicate equipment stores at the site was damaged during the invasion.

Point Salines is now a secure military base and has been the scene of the largest American military operation since the Vietnam war. The Americans may want to retain a strong presence there.

The 9,000ft runway that Mr

Reagan saw as ideal for Russian and Cuban military aircraft, but which is the minimum length for large airlines, is at a crucial stage of construction. It lacks a final sealing coat of bitumen. Without it rain will penetrate the runway and crack it, a process that will be hastened by the landing of heavy military aircraft. The runway could be ruined in three months.

The airport question is regarded as a test of American intentions. For the time being the soldiers are welcome liberators and no one seems to find the road checks irksome. But perceptions may change and the Americans are already being warned that once euphoria wears off resentment could set in.

People are dismayed, for example, that the army claims office set up on the quayside here does not entertain claims for damage caused during fighting. It deals with such things as claims resulting from crashes between Grenadian cars and army lorries.

The Americans, extrication from Grenada is a delicate matter. The timetable of withdrawal, the question of whether they should have a permanent military presence, and the allocation of aid have to be just right. Otherwise the atmosphere may sour and Grenada may become a thorn.



Sir Paul Scoon, the Grenada Governor-General, braves heavy rain to announce an interim government.

Invasion critics change minds

From Nicholas Ashford, Washington

Despite the relatively heavy casualties suffered by US, Cuban and Grenadian forces during the fighting in Grenada, a growing number of American politicians are publicly supporting the US action, giving President Reagan an unexpected political bonus as he prepares to announce his 1984 election plans.

The most surprising expressions of support have come from Senator Edward Kennedy (Democrat, Massachusetts) and Mr Thomas (Tip) O'Neill, the House Speaker.

After a report by a bipartisan congressional mission which visited Grenada at the weekend, Senator Kennedy called the invasion "appropriate action" while Mr O'Neill, who had previously denounced the military operation as "gunboat diplomacy", has now said it was "justified".

Another unexpected declaration of support has come from Congressman Michael Barnes (Democrat, Maryland), who is normally an outspoken critic of the President on foreign policy issues.

In an article in yesterday's

Washington Post (which also now believes that "the President made the right decision in Grenada"), Mr Barnes, a member of the congressional fact-finding team, wrote: "It was a very close call, but it was reasonable, weighing the factors the President had to weigh, to reach the decision that he made".

However, two members of the mission have said they still retained doubts.

Undoubtedly the welcome US troops received both from Americans on the island and from the Grenadians, as well as reports of the quantity of weapons discovered there, have caused Mr O'Neill, Mr Barnes and others to adjust their views.

But, with the US presidential election less than a year away, they have also undoubtedly been influenced by the overwhelming support of the American public for the invasion.

A Washington Post ABC News poll showed that the President's handling of the crisis had increased his overall popularity rating to its highest level in two years, and that he had edged ahead of the two

leading Democratic contenders for the Presidency, Mr Walter Mondale and Senator John Glenn.

Meanwhile, the Reagan Administration yesterday firmly denied British press reports that the US death toll in the Grenada invasion was more than twice that officially reported. Asked to comment on these reports, Mr Caspar Weinberger, the Defence Secretary, told *The Times*: "they're wrong, they're wrong".

The names of those who died have been prominently reported in the US media. The Administration has reported 18 American deaths in the Grenada operation. The British press reports said the death toll was 42 and could rise as high as 80.

Killer strikes

Bonn (AFP) - Dieter Goetze, a convicted triple murderer known as the "Paris strangler", struck again by killing his sister and her son a few miles from Bonn before committing suicide. He had been released from jail earlier this year.

Reagan's argument persuades Japan

From David Watts, Tokyo

The United States has won significant commitments from Japan which should lead to some liberalization of the Japanese economy and pave the way for the emergence of the yen as an international currency. Washington believes that the measures should strengthen the yen, making Japanese products less competitive and easing the enormous Japanese-US trade imbalance.

The measures, however, will need approval by the Diet and the ability of Japan to deliver results is complicated by the fact that Mr Yasuhiro Nakasone, the Prime Minister, is expected to go to the polls by the end of this year.

President Reagan has prom-

ised the Japanese that SS20 missiles in the Soviet Far East will receive equal consideration in arms negotiations to those aimed at Europe and the United States. His promise comes amid fresh evidence that the Soviet Union plans to build up its deployment of SS20s in central Siberia and the Far East above the 108 already in place.

According to press statements after their second round of talks, the President told the Japanese Prime Minister: "The US will take no action in the intermediate nuclear forces negotiations that adversely affects the security of Asia".

That assurance was one of the few detailed public references to defence issues.

Spain and Portugal meet to mend fences

From Richard Wigg, Madrid

Señor Felipe González and Dr Mario Soares, the prime ministers of Spain and Portugal, meet today in Lisbon to try to launch a new spirit of collaboration between the two nations, neighbours "with their backs to each other".

There are big trading problems, and Señor González is taking a team of ministers, including Señor Miguel Boyer (Economics and Finance) to the two-day summit.

Relations, at their lowest ebb for decades, are more than a challenge for the two Socialist prime ministers and the poverty of economic, political and cultural contacts are a matter of shame.

Many Portuguese, Dr Soares has warned the Spaniards, still mistrust their bigger neighbour from whom they achieved independence only in the seventeenth century. The first site suggested for the talks was rejected because a monument to the independence struggle stands outside.

Before departing, Señor González floated the idea of dismantling all tariff barriers but Dr Soares replied that a Benelux-style relationship was "too imaginative".

Both almost daily proclaim their impatience to join the EEC. Yet neither has felt able to emulate Ireland, which prepared for membership by negotiating a free-trade agreement with Britain.

For years, Spain has been Portugal's thirteenth-ranking customer. There is no Portuguese bank in Madrid and still no bridge over the Guadiana river between Andalusia and southern Portugal.

The trade framework established in 1980 between Spain and Portugal, with EEC entry in mind, soon ran into difficulties as Spain's exports, chiefly industrial goods, rapidly grew, while Portugal's, mainly raw materials and textiles, declined initially.

By going slow on licences, Portugal, in the first nine months of this year, reduced Spain's exports to £172m, against £290m for 1982, while pushing its exports to Spain up to £79m, against £72m for all of last year. By such tactics Portugal hopes to induce Spain to go on lowering its tariff barriers.

Portugal has stonewalled on renewing a fishing agreement, fining all Spanish vessels caught "trespassing". Behind a conservationist argument lies, the fact that Spanish boats are more efficient.

Tinkering with the system

Illness and inertia hold back efficiency drive

Richard Owen, Moscow Correspondent, concludes his examination of Soviet policies a year after the death of Brezhnev with a report on the home front.

When the Korean airliner was shot down over Sakhalin - taking with it hopes for an East-West thaw - President Andropov was on holiday in the Caucasus.

He returned to Moscow, but, according to some reports, much of the handling (or mishandling) of the crisis was left to two lieutenants: Marshal Dmitry Ustinov and Mr Konstantin Chernenko.

Mr Andropov's prolonged absence and his incapacitating illness have cast doubt on his political future.

He has never acquired dictatorial powers, but his authority remains unchallenged: he holds the three vital posts of party leader, head of state and chairman of the Defence Council (an appointment announced obliquely by Marshal Ustinov in May).

It took his predecessor years to go so far. But the combination of poor health and bureaucratic inertia have slowed Mr Andropov down, leaving him unable to steamroller through the economic and administrative reforms he initially outlined.

Preoccupation with the arms question has also taken some of the steam out of his drive for efficiency and discipline.

A year ago Mr Andropov pinpointed the drift and stagnation of the Brezhnev years. This has been followed by modest innovations in agriculture, including a "contract" system of payment by results. Food supplies have improved. In July, Mr Andropov announced a "limited industrial experiment", giving managers in selected industries a degree of autonomy.

But these moves towards a scaled-down version of the Hungarian reform have run into opposition from the old guard. They have also been attacked by those who think they do not go far enough.

Mr Andropov said the time had come for action, not talk: but a Kremlin research paper leaked in August called for radical action, including decentralization and hints of market socialism.

Mr Andropov favours tinkering with the system rather than fundamental change. Yet even

his cautious thrust towards reform is being blocked by officials more used to the immobility of the later Brezhnev years.

They "change" it is thought, is Mr Chernenko, who told the leadership battle a year ago but is still at the top. He no longer heads the powerful "general department" and Andropov aides have moved into other key party positions.

Mr Chernenko is seen as a lightweight figure, yet he is acting head of the Politburo in Mr Andropov's absence, receives foreign delegations and writes prominent articles on ideology.

Some sources say that if Mr Andropov recovers from his illness - there are unconfirmed reports that he has had a kidney operation - and takes firm command he will be in a position to take stronger measures next year.

He has the armed forces on his side and the KGB, his former foe, has increased its political influence over the past year (one side-effect being an almost Stalinist crackdown on dissent and heresy in the arts).

But Mr Andropov has made no changes to the Politburo and all eyes are now on the next Central Committee plenum, expected at the beginning of next month.

Local party elections are being used to wrinkle out Brezhnev men and pave the way for an altered Central Committee, with perhaps as many as 30 to 40 per cent of the provincial party secretaries being replaced.

Manoeuvring for the succession has also begun and will intensify if Mr Andropov is not well enough to guide and address the Central Committee plenum.

Mr Grigoriy Romanov, the tough Leningrad party boss who was moved to Moscow as a party secretary in June, is the favourite, with Mr Gaidar Alyev and Mr Mikhail Gorbatchev not far behind.

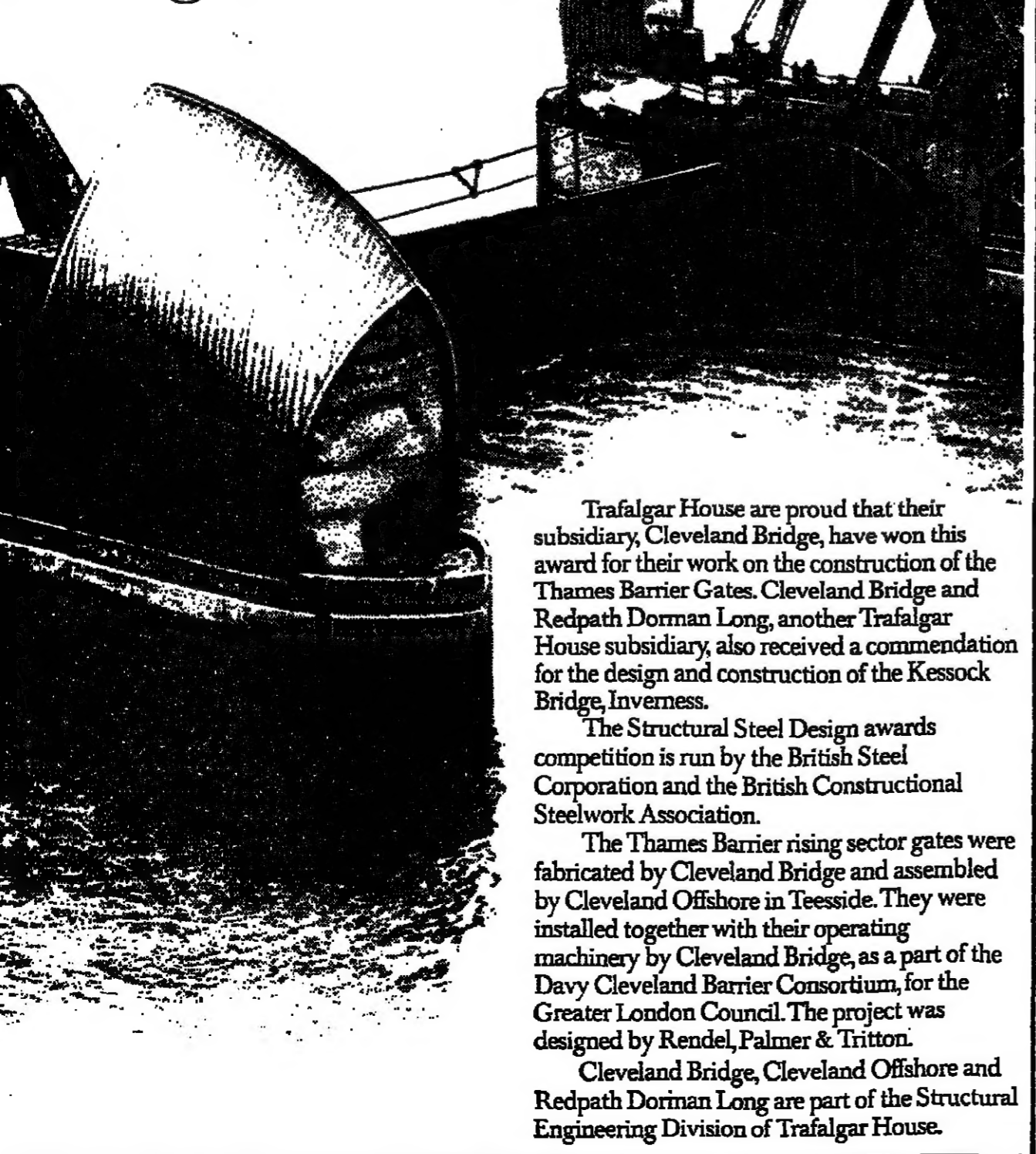
Mr Romanov and Mr Gorbatchev are both Russians and both Central Committee secretaries as well as Politburo members. Mr Alyev, who joined the Politburo last November, is the former KGB chief and party leader in Azerbaijan.

Mr Andropov, who is aware of the vigorous and impressive generation of future leaders coming up behind him, chose Mr Romanov and Mr Gorbatchev to accompany him this summer when he addressed party veterans on the theme of youth and communism.

He must hope that the legacy he leaves, then, will lay the basis for a less-corrupt and more prosperous system. Equally, he must hope he will have more than one year in which to tackle the undergrowth of inertia and incompetence which he identified as the enemy when he came to power.

Continued

Trafalgar House congratulate Cleveland Bridge on their 1983 Structural Steel Design Award.



Trafalgar House are proud that their subsidiary, Cleveland Bridge, have won this award for their work on the construction of the Thames Barrier Gates. Cleveland Bridge and Redpath Dorman Long, another Trafalgar House subsidiary, also received a commendation for the design and construction of the Kessock Bridge, Inverness.

The Structural Steel Design awards competition is run by the British Steel Corporation and the British Constructional Steelwork Association.

The Thames Barrier rising sector gates were fabricated by Cleveland Bridge and assembled by Cleveland Offshore in Teesside. They were installed together with their operating machinery by Cleveland Bridge, as a part of the Davy Cleveland Barrier Consortium, for the Greater London Council. The project was designed by Rendel, Palmer & Tritton.

Cleveland Bridge, Cleveland Offshore and Redpath Dorman Long are part of the Structural Engineering Division of Trafalgar House.

Fight for power in Salvador vacuum

From John Carlin, San Salvador

The climate in El Salvador has been heavy with reports of attempted coups in recent days as factions in the armed forces become increasingly restless at the country's political and military stagnation.

Signs from the right that they were poised to revert to time-honoured methods of seizing power provoked some frenzied backroom manoeuvrings last Friday among moderate military officers planning what has been described as a "pre-emptive coup".

But well-informed sources here say that the US Embassy applied pressure to veto a scheme which would have put in doubt the legitimacy of Washington's moral and military commitment to a country it considers strategically vital.

Retired General Jaime Abdul Gutiérrez, member of the military-civilian Government from 1979 to 1982, denied this week that he had led Friday's coup attempt.

But he then proceeded to lash the Government for "taking the country into chaos", complaining of a total absence of efficient leadership in both the political and military areas.

With the war going badly for government forces and the country politically a vacuum, Dr Alvar Magaña's title of Provisional President, which he

has held since the election in March last year, has never seemed so appropriate.

Under the direction of the extreme right-wing Major Roberto D'Aubuisson, El Salvador's Constituent Assembly has been floundering in attempts to draw up a new constitution before the elections due next year.

The lack of a clear political direction has led the right to step up the activity of its death squads lately, as a means of imposing its political will in such key areas as land reform and trade union activity.

The victims of the death squads in the last two months of well-publicized political assassinations have been chiefly labour activists and rural cooperative workers.

The 7,000-strong rebel army, the FMLN, has palpably taken the initiative in the four-year civil war, prompting military officers to pin the blame on weak central government.

Colonel Domingo Monterrosa, commander of El Salvador's elite American-trained Atlacatl battalion, said in an interview on Wednesday that most of his fellow officers were "frustrated at the slow, directionless political process. This is no time for political party squabbles", he said.

Brazil pushes through law to curb wages

From Patrick Knight, São Paulo

After a tumultuous 10-hour session, ending at 4.30am on Wednesday, the Brazilian Congress finally approved the controversial decree which limits future wage increases to less than the inflation rate.

Two earlier decrees had been rejected by Congress, but on this occasion all government party members were obliged to vote in favour, and all but one were in Brasília to do so.

The new law opens the way for the IMF to release its delayed loans to Brazil, and for the private banks to start lending again.

Wage rises will now be kept below the inflation rate for all except those earning less than about £120 a month, on a sliding scale.

This means that the total wage bill should rise by 12.5 per cent less than inflation during the next year, forcing the rate down.

Leading article, page 13

Ramphal attacks US aid cuts

By Henry Stanhope, Diplomatic Correspondent

The United States is criticized today by Mr Sonny Ramphal, Secretary-General of the Commonwealth, for cutting back on aid to even the world's poorest countries.

He attacks President Reagan's economic policies and the new mood of "national assertiveness" - most of all in Central America - in the introduction to his two-yearly report.

But he also condemns the Soviet Union for adding to world tensions through its continuing occupation of Afghanistan and for exploiting economic weakness elsewhere.

Mr Ramphal's report, coming within two weeks of the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting in Delhi, was written before the left-wing coup and subsequent US intervention in Grenada.

During the two years since the last meeting in Melbourne, he says, the world has faced the most serious dangers since the Second World War.

He refers in his introduction, "The Healing Touch", to the retreat from détente, to a

Bonn defiant over EEC beer order

From Our Correspondent, Bonn

Bonn is prepared to go to the European Court in Luxembourg to uphold West Germany's 490-year-old beer purity law, on health grounds, against imports of "adulterated" foreign beers ordered by the European Commission.

Dr Heiner Geissler, the Health Minister, yesterday told a brewers' convention in Nuremberg that "our beer law says it may be made only from hops, malt, yeast and water. This means that neither rice nor maize, nor chemical substances to create a decent froth in a glass may be employed. All other EEC members allow that, with the exception of Greece."

"... We have defended the law from the start and we shall go on doing it and, if need be, not shy away from going to the European Court."

The European Commission claims the German law, which dates from 1493, infringes the Treaty of Rome, which forbids import restrictions.

Fears for priest held in Ciskei

From Michael Hornsby, Johannesburg

Concern is growing here about the fate of Father Smangaliso Mkhathshwa, the black General Secretary of the Southern African Catholic Bishops' Conference who was arrested by Ciskeian security police on October 30 and has not been heard of since.

Attempts by the conference to find out his whereabouts and the reasons for his arrest have failed. Bishop John Murphy of Port Elizabeth, the diocese which includes Ciskei, had made three requests for a meeting with the Ciskeian Minister of Justice, but all have been turned down.

Father Mkhathshwa was arrested after attending a prayer meeting organized by Christian students at the University of Port Hare, the most famous black university in South Africa. The meeting was called mainly to mourn the death last month of five students at the University of Zululand.

Williamsburg economic summit last summer as "a missed opportunity". The same mood of inertia prevailed during the UNCTAD VI meeting at Belgrade where the North-South dialogue drifted helplessly into the doldrums.

He attacks the way in which South Africa has been allowed to "call the tune" over Namibia and urges the five-nation Contact Group to make diplomatic progress toward the country's independence. If it cannot, then the world must devise "other strategies".

Meanwhile, South Africa has used its rising military strength to "harness and bully" its neighbours, most of whom are fragile members of the Commonwealth.

But he welcomes the code of conduct adopted last year by the Commonwealth Games Federation, signalling opposition to sporting links with South Africa. Several governments have taken "swift and decisive" action against Sportsmen who have breached the boycott, he notes with approval.

THE DIFFERENCE A REGULAR MONTHLY INCOME MAKES:

What 11½% p.a. gross earns you every month

Investment	Average monthly income	Investment	Average monthly income
£ 2,000	£ 19.17	£15,000	£143.75
£ 3,000	£ 28.75	£16,000	£153.33
£ 4,000	£ 38.33	£17,000	£162.92
£ 5,000	£ 47.92	£18,000	£172.50
£ 6,000	£ 57.50	£19,000	£182.08
£ 7,000	£ 67.08	£20,000	£191.67
£ 8,000	£ 76.67	£21,000	£201.25
£ 9,000	£ 86.25	£22,000	£210.83
£10,000	£ 95.83	£23,000	£220.42
£11,000	£105.42	£24,000	£230.00
£12,000	£115.00	£25,000	£239.58
£13,000	£124.58	(Each additional £1,000 invested produces an average of £9.58 a month – £115.00 a year. Maximum of £200,000.)	
£14,000	£134.17		

As you can see, an investment in National Savings Income Bonds can make a lot of difference to your income. Currently you'll get 11½% pa interest on your Income Bonds. You'll get it paid monthly. And you'll get it all paid without deduction of tax.

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NATIONAL SAVINGS INCOME BONDS

PROSPECTUS

1. The Director of Savings is authorised by the Lords Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury to receive until further notice applications for National Savings Income Bonds ("Bonds").

2. The Bonds are a Government security, issued under the National Loans Act 1968. They are registered in the National Savings Stock Register and are subject to the Regulations relating to the National Savings Stock Register for the time being in force, so far as these are applicable. The principal of and interest on the Bonds will be a charge on the National Loans Fund.

PURCHASE

3.1 Subject to a minimum initial purchase of £2,000 (see paragraph 4) a Bond may be purchased for £1,000 or a multiple of that sum. Payment in full must be made at the time of application. The date of purchase will for all purposes be the date of receipt of the remittance, with a completed application form, at the Bonds and Stock Office, Blackpool, or such other place as the Director of Savings may specify.

3.2 An investment certificate, bearing the date of purchase, will be issued in respect of each purchase.

HOLDING LIMITS

4.1 No person may hold, either solely or jointly with any other person, less than £2,000 or more than £200,000 of Bonds. Bonds inherited from a deceased holder will not count towards the permitted maximum. Furthermore, Bonds held by a person as permitted maximum further to the maximum which he is permitted to hold in his personal capacity, nor will Bonds held in trust count towards the permitted maximum of a beneficiary's personal holding.

4.2 The Treasury may vary the maximum and minimum holding limits and the minimum initial purchase from time to time, upon giving notice. No such variation will prejudice any right under the prospectus enjoyed by a Bondholder immediately before the variation in respect of a Bond then held by him.

INTEREST

5.1 Interest will be calculated on a day-to-day basis from the date of purchase at a rate determined by the Treasury ("the Treasury rate").

5.2 Interest will be payable on the 5th day of each month. The Director of Savings may defer payments of accrued interest otherwise due in respect of a Bond within the period of six weeks following the date of purchase until the next interest date following the end of that period.

5.3 If on repayment the Bond has, by reason of paragraph 6.1, earned less interest than the total already paid in respect of the Bond under paragraph 5.2 the balance earned on the Bond and not already paid before repayment will be added to the sum to be repaid. If, in the case of repayment under paragraph 6.2, it is not reasonably practicable to stop an interest payment from being made after the

repayment date the amount of that interest payment will be deducted from the sum to be repaid.

5.4 The Treasury may from time to time vary the Treasury rate upon giving six weeks' notice.

5.5 The Treasury may from time to time vary the intervals at and dates on which interest is payable, upon giving notice, and in so doing may specify holding limits above or below which any variation will apply. No variation will apply to a Bond issued before the variation unless the Bondholder agrees to such application.

5.6 Interest on a Bond registered in the sole name of a minor under seven years of age will normally be paid into a National Savings Bank account in the name of the minor.

5.7 Interest on a Bond will be paid without deduction of income tax, but it is subject to income tax and must be included in any return of income made to the Inland Revenue.

REPAYMENT

6.1 A Bondholder may obtain repayment of a Bond at par before redemption upon giving either three or six calendar months' notice. The amount of interest earned by the Bond from the date of purchase until repayment will be determined by the period of notice given by the Bondholder and by whether or not repayment takes place before the first anniversary of purchase.

	3 months' notice of repayment	6 months' notice of repayment
Repayment before the first anniversary of purchase	No interest in respect of any period	Interest at half the Treasury rate from the date of purchase to the date of repayment
Repayment on or after the first anniversary of purchase	Interest at the Treasury rate from the date of purchase to the date the notice of repayment is received at the Bonds and Stock Office	Interest at the Treasury rate from the date of purchase to the date of repayment

6.2 Where an application for repayment of a Bond is made after the death of the sole or sole surviving registered holder no fixed period of notice is required and the Bond will earn interest at the Treasury rate from the date of purchase up to the date of repayment, whether or not repayment occurs before the first anniversary of the purchase.

6.3 Any application for repayment of a Bond must be made in writing to the Bonds and Stock Office, Blackpool and accom-

panied by the investment certificate. The period of notice given by the Bondholder will be calculated from the date on which the application is received in the Bonds and Stock Office.

6.4 Application may be made for repayment of part of a Bond in an amount of £1,000 or a multiple of that sum provided that the holding of Bonds remaining after the part repayment will still fall within the minimum holding limit imposed by paragraph 4.1 as varied from time to time under paragraph 4.2. The preceding sub-paragraphs will apply to the part repaid as to a whole Bond. The remaining balance will have the same date of purchase and the same interest dates as were applicable to the original Bond immediately prior to repayment.

PAYMENTS

7. Interest will be payable direct to a National Savings Bank or other bank account or by crossed warrant sent by post. Capital will be repayable direct to a National Savings Bank account or by crossed warrant sent by post.

MINORS

8. A Bond held by a minor under the age of seven years, either solely or jointly with any other person, will not be repayable, except with the consent of the Director of Savings.

TRANSFER

9. Bonds will not be transferable except with the consent of the Director of Savings. Transfer of a Bond or part of a Bond will not be allowed if the holding of the transferor or transferee would thereby be outside the holding limits imposed by paragraph 4.1 as varied from time to time under paragraph 4.2. The Director of Savings will normally give consent in the case of, for example, devolution of Bonds on the death of a holder but not to any proposed transfer which is by way of sale or for any consideration.

NOTICE

10. The Treasury will give any notice required under paragraph 4.2, 5.4, 5.5 or 11 of the prospectus in the London, Edinburgh and Belfast Gazettes or in any other manner which they think fit. If notice is given otherwise than in the Gazettes it will as soon as is reasonably possible thereafter be recorded in them.

GUARANTEED LIFE OF BONDS

11. Each Bond may be held for a guaranteed initial period of 10 years from the first interest date after the date of purchase. Thereafter interest will continue to be payable under the terms of the prospectus until the redemption of the Bond. The Bond will be redeemed at par either at the end of the guaranteed initial period or on any interest date thereafter in either case upon the giving of six months' notice by the Treasury. The Director of Savings will write to the Bondholder before redemption, at the latest recorded address for his Bondholding, informing him of the date of redemption notified by the Treasury.

APPLICATION FOR NATIONAL SAVINGS INCOME BOND

To NSIB, Bonds and Stock Office, Blackpool, Lancs FY3 9YP

1. We accept the terms of the Prospectus and apply for a Bond to the value of: £ ,000 Initial minimum of £2,000 and multiples of £1,000 to a maximum of £200,000

2. Surname(s) Full Christian name(s) or forename(s) Mr/Mrs/Miss

Address (including postcode)

Name of Trust (if applicable) Date of Birth (if under 7) Day Month Year

3. NAME AND ADDRESS FOR DESPATCH OF INVESTMENT CERTIFICATE (if different from above):
Name
Address

4. DIVIDENDS TO BE PAID BY CREDIT TO - (if not to a National Savings Bank or other bank account, enter name and address to which dividend warrants should be sent)
Bank
Address
A/c Name(s) A/c No

5. Signature(s) Date

SPECTRUM

Smoothing the path to the top

Only C. P. Snow could have done justice to the battle for the new entrance system to Oxford University. Last week the reformers won a victory. But there is still room for the traditionalists to escape. Robin Young reports.

I suspect I got into Oxford by a lie. My interviewers noted that I had studied nothing but nineteenth century history. Who, one of them asked, ruled England in 1530? Desperate, I guessed: "Henry VIII." When they seemed to concur I added upon an euphoric inspiration: "I worked it out from Shakespeare." The senior tutor's eyelid trembled. I was in.

Telling this story in Oxford now, I am assured it cannot be true. It was by my papers I was judged - interviews never counted for much. Maybe, but it is mythology like mine that perpetually agitates people's feelings about Oxbridge entrance exams. My belief, that one could fluke a way in, has always been matched by more pessimistic myths: that no one can make it without family connexions, wealth or the right school background.

When I went up the Oxford entrance system was still a tangled thicket of closed awards (one limited to sons of college group examinations for open awards, and separate college exams for commoners' places. Some less lucky than me became Oxford commuters, trailing up to Oxford colleges five or more times a year.

In 1962 the system was rationalized. Oxford and Cambridge retained their own entrance exams, held in November, but only on condition that they decided early in the academic year - by January 31 - on candidates they did examine. Those who were told "Yes" had then only to fulfil matriculation requirements (two Es in A-levels) and they were in. Those who were told "No" knew early enough to hunt for places elsewhere through the UCCA



Dr Oliver Taplin, admissions committee chairman: "We cannot shed the Brideshead image by altering our admissions policy."

admissions procedure to other British universities which offer places on condition that certain grades are reached the following summer.

Some Oxford colleges made limited use of the same "conditional offer" mode of entry as used by UCCA, but pupils had to apply earlier to Oxford and on a separate form. Interviews for conditional offers, held in September and October, left candidates nine months' notice of the grades they required in A-levels if their conditions of entry were to be fulfilled.

Though entrance exams could be sat at any age (and in successive years if success was not immediate), public schools concentrated their attention on sending candidates for examination in their seventh term of sixth form, after sitting A-levels and having one term's special preparation for the Oxbridge trial.

The 1962 arrangement was probably suitable for its time. Then Oxford made its choice from a relatively small number of schools - public, direct grant and maintained grammar - all of which themselves had selective entry. Since then the reorganization of

secondary schools has produced hundreds of comprehensive schools which undoubtedly have many pupils of high academic potential, but which have no resources to devote to special coaching for Oxford and Cambridge entrance exams, and usually no opportunity to welcome pupils back after A-levels.

The unfairness has shown. Independent schools educate just 7 per cent of the population. They take a third of all university places, but at Oxford the proportion rises to almost precisely half. With such discouragement it is hardly surprising that of 2,541 maintained schools on the UCCA list, 500 have not entered a single candidate for Oxford's exams in the last four years.

In attempts to make the system fairer, while no doubt hoping to catch themselves some cleverer candidates from a neglected pool, some colleges, led by Hertford - pioneered admission schemes which dispensed with examinations. Other schemes, notably for Scotland and inner London, were devised to encourage applicants from schools in areas felt to be particularly disadvantaged by the system.

Finally, last November, Keble College proposed to steal a march by moving closer to the UCCA system. It would have dispensed with the Oxford entry form, and interviewed conditional-offer candidates in November at the same time as the college was holding its entrance examinations. This was the straw which broke the camel's back.

It was decided that the time for a thorough overhaul had come. A committee under the chairmanship of Sir Kenneth Dover, president of Corpus Christi, was appointed "to produce a simplified admissions procedure common to all colleges".

Dover approached this task of "Byzantine complexity" with the delicacy and sensitivity with which he formerly expounded theories about the nature of homosexuality in ancient Greece. On almost every issue he and his committee found complete variance of opinion not only among themselves, but within every sector of the educational system. While some argued that Oxford must set all its applicants written examinations, others argued that it should examine none. One college argued that interviews would be more reliable if there were no written papers to prejudice the interviewers. Others furiously declared that Oxford was being torn from its standards of excellence "by appeals to specious fairness and illusory simplicity".

Dover and his colleagues, in 27 earnest hard-working, but by all accounts good-natured meetings elaborated detailed scenarios of the consequences of proposed changes, and eliminated the various possibilities until they thought they had a package all the colleges might be persuaded to accept.

Last week their hopes were realized. The Dover recommendations were voted through, subject to only two substantial amendments. Dover himself is satisfied that the changes should simplify the system and make it fairer, though much will depend on how the new system is implemented. Oliver Taplin of Magdalen, chairman of the Oxford Colleges Admissions Office, is more bullish: "If maintained-school candidates do not apply now, I suppose they never will, because these reforms do meet most of the things the maintained schools complained were putting them off. All that remains is a media problem. We cannot shed the Brideshead image by altering our admissions policy."



Sir Kenneth Dover: a delicate touch for a Byzantine task

Why the entrance exam is a waste of effort

Dr Paul Collier of Keble College and Dr Colin Mayer of St Anne's analysed the examination records of 526 candidates who applied to read PPE at Oxford in 1978, and 294 undergraduates who sat finals in 1982 and 1983 and obtained second or third class degrees. (Attention was concentrated on these classifications since they are the ones to which examiners pay closest attention in their marking.)

On admissions the researchers found that children from comprehensive schools had a significantly higher probability of being accepted than did children from independent schools with the same examination grades. Yet they concluded that this differential was not generous enough. This was because they also found that children from comprehensives did better in finals than those from independent schools with the same O and A-levels. They argue therefore that a more balanced social mix at Oxford would not conflict with higher academic standards.

From their analysis of finals' results, Collier and Mayer concluded that Oxford's entrance exams had the least predictive value of all in forecasting how well candidates would do at the end of their university careers.

The table shows key results of the study. Taking an applicant with median characteristics in terms of age and O-level, A-level and entrance examination marks, column 1 shows how the candidate's chances of admission to Oxford varied with improved

THE NEW EVIDENCE	PROBABILITY OF BEING ADMITTED TO READ PPE (POLITICS, PHILOSOPHY, ECONOMICS)		PROBABILITY OF OBTAINING SECOND OR THIRD CLASS DEGREE	
	CHANCE IN PROBABILITY IF:		CHANCE IN PROBABILITY IF:	
Admission and Finals performance probabilities of a woman applicant aged 18 from an independent school with median O, A, and entrance exam marks	CANDIDATE WAS MALE		CANDIDATE WAS 9 MONTHS OLDER	
	-4%		-10%	
	+3%		-8%	
the exam performance of the candidate corresponded with the upper quartile mark (upper quartile in brackets) as opposed to the median mark in:	CANDIDATE CAME FROM A COMPREHENSIVE SCHOOL		O-LEVELS	
	+21%		+12% (+23)	
	+9%		+5% (+9)	
THE OXFORD ENTRANCE EXAM	A-LEVELS		+16% (+27)	
	+33% (+60)		+5% (+8)	
	+1% (+2)			

performance in each exam. Better marks in the Oxford entrance examination were markedly the most influential factor.

Column 2 shows how the same factors relate to whether an undergraduate in the finals gets a second or third-class degree. Discrepancies between admissions and finals results are very wide, and although examiners placed most reliance on the entrance exam in admissions, it is inferior to both O and A-levels as a predictor of finals results.

In finals, the comprehensive candidate with median characteristics was found to perform far better than the independent school undergraduate.

The researchers estimated that 35 per cent of the applicants who obtained admissions could be predicted to do less well than would candidates who had been rejected. Had places been allocated by lottery this would have been true of only 60 per cent. So despite a powerful social bias in favour of independent schools, they argue, Oxford's entrance system has been only moderately superior to a random raffle.

But since O and A-levels were little better as predictors of finals performance, they fear that the net outcome of the present reforms could simply be to substitute one lottery for another.

month are in the penultimate year to enjoy that particular luxury. From 1985 Oxford applicants will either face their written exam in the fourth sixth-form term before sitting A-levels (Mode E) or go for entry without written examination (Mode N). Mode N will be open to candidates at any stage of their career. All the colleges have agreed to adopt the same procedure.

The Dover reforms mean that interviews for both modes of entry, E and N, will be conducted simultaneously in December so that selectors will have all the candidates before them at the same time. There will be no more gambling with early offers, nor knowing the strength of the candidates who might present themselves months later.

Fourth-term sixth-formers will no longer be pitted in exams against seventh (and even tenth) formers with the unconvincing assurance that the exams are designed to test potential rather than achievement. Ridiculed in schools, the claim was regarded sceptically even in Oxford. And candidates will no longer be obliged to list three Oxford colleges in order of preference. In the past it was something akin to filling a football pools coupon. The totally unpredictable variations in the size and quality of the fields which might go for places in the same subject at any one college left some candidates unplaced, while the luckier ones of no greater ability were snapped up by their colleges of first choice.

From 1985 candidates will still be able to list preferences for one, two or three colleges. Those who choose to return open applications, without stating any preference, will be allocated to colleges by computer according to the number of places available.

In the new system schoolteachers will be involved in panels supervising the Oxford entrance exams. Dr Harry Judge, director of Oxford's Department of Educational Studies, says: "I do hope with their participation that it will be possible to design exams which will be much more precise than the existing ones in determining academic potential, rather than attainment."

Two issues remain to disquiet the Dover committee reformers. One amendment to their scheme results, they claim, from misunderstandings and confusion. It means that Mode N applicants, as well as being encouraged to submit written work from school and being subject to interview and oral tests, may also face an hour of written tests as well. There are fears that these tests may quickly develop into a proliferation of alternatives to the newly abolished seventh-term exam. At present it is not even clear whether they are to be set by individual colleges, or by inter-collegiate subject committees. That, Oliver Taplin promises, will speedily be sorted out.

Dr Peter Neumann, of Queen's College - the Dover committee

member who dissented from its recommendation to limit entrance examinations to pre-A-Level candidates - is relieved that the option of written tests is to remain. "They will provide a common currency in our system", he says, "when candidates might be seen by several colleges. It is not at all clear that A-levels plus an interview is a fine enough instrument when you have to select the ablest from among what are already the very best."

A second amendment was passed despite a circular dispatched by Sir Kenneth Dover to all colleges pleading against it. This permits colleges to state, subject by subject, whether they intend to prefer candidates from Mode E or Mode N.

Dr Judge says: "I do not think it will work. I trust colleges will quickly come to see that it is in their best interests, as well as that of candidates, that they should not implement it. Stating a preference against non-examination candidates will mean that those colleges cannot be sent open-application candidates in that subject, and must reduce the number of good people who will be available to them."

If Dr Judge is wrong, and the right to state preference is widely used, page 3 of the 1985 prospectus will carry a table, peppered with Es, Ns and blanks, looking once again like a pools coupon, and inviting candidates to perm their preferences according to their preferred mode of entry.

How effective the changes will be in increasing the maintained sector intake at Oxford is still anyone's guess, though everyone agrees that it must help. Mr David Potter, headmaster of the Ernest Bevin Comprehensive School in Wandsworth, London, commented: "I used to go to conferences at Oxford and it was like being a voice crying in the wilderness. I welcome the changes, but I still do not think they will get the right candidates. I see a lot of my former pupils who tried to get into Oxford or Cambridge and failed, but who then get firsts from other universities, and that is what I look at."

The independent schools, which depend heavily on Oxbridge entrance results to attract their future fee-paying pupils, will be determined not to lose too many of the glittering prizes. Dr Judge says: "If the schools most interested in Oxbridge entrances elect to cheat, by earlier specialization or by forcing pupils through O-levels early to leave more time for entrance exam preparation, that would regrettably show that they are not serious about maintaining a good level of secondary education or about being fair to other schools."

Yet undoubtedly the public schools are already laying their plans and pondering one final question. What if Cambridge refuses to follow Oxford's lead in abandoning the seventh-term exams? How will they cope if Oxbridge divides into two separate systems?

moreover...
Miles Kington

Fog is the permanent outlook

My friends find it hard to believe that I recently became the author of an entirely serious work entitled *Nature Made Ridiculously Simple*. Just how serious this survey of the entire natural world was can be judged by the fact that I did not place for the sentimental protection of any rare species, but argued rather for the extermination of a great many, in order to make nature easier to identify. During the course of research for the book, which took several weekends, I discovered an entirely new species of insect, but where other naturalists might have weakly cordoned off the area or made a phone call to David Attenborough, I made the firm decision to destroy all known specimens before it proliferated.

My most amazing discovery, though, was the fact that there is one science which has actually gone backwards in the last 30 years and is now more primitive than it used to be. That science is meteorology. So primitive is meteorology that no weatherman has ever issued an appeal for the protection of a rare kind of cloud or warned that cirro-cumulus is being hunted to extinction.

Thirty years ago meteorology seemed to be on the verge of a breakthrough. Clouds would be needed by flying weathermen, we were told. Long-range forecasts would be better and longer. Satellite photography would tell us more and more. Nothing of the sort happened. The campaign to cause rain by seeding came to an end several years ago in utter failure with, I believe, one small shower to show for 30 years' effort. Long-range forecasts have been withdrawn because they are so inaccurate. And satellite photos still have to have the outlines of Britain drawn on to them so that anyone can make out anything at all.

The only advance chalked up in 30 years is the surrender to feminism over the question of hurricanes. Once given only female names, they are named after men as well, but as the last one I read about was called Hurricane Raymond, I do not think this can be called a real advance.

I now realize that I was slightly unfair to meteorologists, and that they have advanced significantly on one front: packaging. It has long been an axiom of big business that if you can't improve the product, you can always improve the packaging and increase the price. If you can't make the weather forecasting better, you can at least improve the style of it, so there has been a quiet revolution in the dressing-up of weathermen coming in across the screen like a warm front.

Symbols on the weather maps have become brighter and better, with more colours, more playful drawings on them, more numbers lying around. And the weathermen have learnt the art of switching the symbols around on the map so quickly that the eye is deceived. Sometimes it's hard to tell the difference between the average weatherman and Paul Daniels.

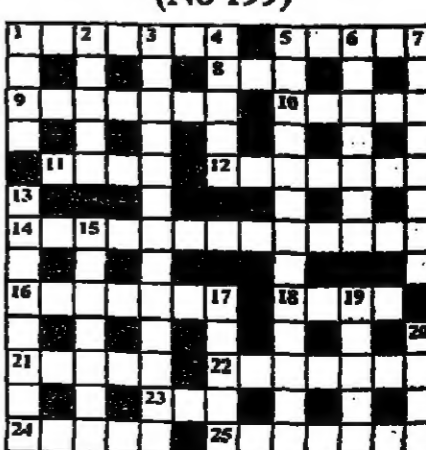
There are so many maps and colours and photos and symbols and weathermen's smiles that we don't notice, in the middle of the conjuring, that the patter is exactly the same as it always was: terminally vague except about things they can really be sure of. Last week I heard a rare example of a weatherman committing himself: this morning in London it will be rainy, he said, but this will clear at lunchtime and the afternoon will be bright. In fact, it rained all afternoon. After 30 years, they still can't get the afternoon right in the morning.

Of course they are right a lot of the time. So they should be. By the law of averages they are going to be right about everything at least 50 per cent of the time. But still they take refuge behind the sort of hazy language that distinguishes racing tipsters and politicians. This week I brought myself again to ring up the British Telecom Weatherline (another bit of grand dressing up) and heard the following words, several times in fact to make sure I'd heard right:

"Clearer weather will spread from the west in the evening. In these clearer conditions it will become rather misty, and fog patches will form later."

Everything clear?

CONCISE CROSSWORD (No 199)



- ACROSS
- 1 Since 1945 (7)
 - 2 Blacksmith's block (5)
 - 3 Social insect (3)
 - 4 Russian government (7)
 - 5 Human trunk (5)
 - 6 Common interest group (4)
 - 7 Christian reclus (5)
 - 8 Nascent study (6,7)
 - 9 Dirty (7)
 - 10 Intestines (4)
 - 11 Authoritative command (5)
 - 12 Whisky (7)
 - 13 Day before (3)
 - 14 Softened (5)
 - 15 Gothic vaulting ribs (7)
- DOWN
- 1 Jak (4)
 - 2 Cartridge (5)
 - 3 With influential friends (4,9)
 - 4 Large stove (5)
 - 5 With a good view (2,3,8)
 - 6 Variant (7)
 - 7 Made less tight (6)
 - 8 Extremely poisonous (3)
 - 9 Minority group (7)
 - 10 Winding stair pillar (5)
 - 11 Symbol (5)
 - 12 Semi-circular street (4)

SOLUTION TO No 198

ACROSS: 1 Lights 2 Mumble 3 Tee 4 Miner 10 Locust 11 Tyro 12 Toadflax 14 Hypochondriac 17 Swelling 20 Seta 21 Dry rot 23 Tassel 24 Lei 25 Severe 26 Exempt

DOWN: 2 Icily 3 Hydrofoil 4 Struth 5 Melita 6 Mac 7 La Scala 13 Fare stage 15 Yew tree 16 Nightie 18 Isle 20 T-wan 22 Rue

From Westminster school: the view of the classroom

Number in school: 617
Number in first and second year sixth: 253
Number trying for Oxbridge each year: 50-65
Oxbridge entries, 1982: 48
In any one year one third of all leavers get in to Oxford or Cambridge.

Dr John Rae, Headmaster: "I think Oxford is right to make the change, but we are bound to think in terms of what help we can give our pupils to ensure that in the new system they do well. We already put 40 per cent of our pupils through O-levels in two years. Now we will have to consider whether we slow them down so that they are that much more mature when they come up for the entrance."

First year sixth formers, who would have taken the entrance exam in 1985

Penelope Davies: "With the last of the seventh-term examinations trying to get into Oxford in the same year as us, there is likely to be a shortage of places. I am thinking of trying for Cambridge now instead."

Jonathan Baxter: "With the whole system suddenly changing like this, we do not know what to expect. There was a lot of unfairness in the system, but it's also unfair that it comes down on us."

John Goodgame: "I still want to get to Oxford because it is better for arts subjects, and as both my parents went there I have some slight family connexion."



Left: Dr John Rae with John Goodgame, Angus Saeer, Penelope Davies and Jonathan Baxter; right: head boy Alasdair Coles with Andrew Hordern

Angus Saeer: "Our first-year sixth work now is going to be really hard, really fast, and I am afraid, governed exclusively by the syllabus."

Taking Oxford entrance exams this month

Alasdair Coles, 16, head boy: "It will be a pity to lose the

seventh-term study because it really is exciting and stimulating, but I would much prefer to win a place thinking that I met the competition on an equal footing. To think you won only because of privilege must make you feel pretty lousy."

Andrew Hordern, 18, tenth-term

applicant: "Anything which attacks privilege of the public schools must be good, but the Oxbridge exams have been very different to A-levels. In A-levels they are impressed by the sheer number of facts you throw at them. For Oxbridge you had to be able to supply some concrete argument as well."

FRIDAY PAGE

spare Rib Outwrite link

Newsheets from the battlefield

Most women these days are, at least in a lukewarm and personal fashion, feminists. We demand responsibility for our own tax returns, make informed choices about the birth of our babies, raise hell over sexual harassment at work. And raising our awareness even further are the myriad feminist magazines that have appeared over the last decade.

Mostly their circulations are small, but there are so many that collectively they make quite an impact. The more amateurish or *outré* spring up and beat before wholefood collectives or Polytech libraries have even caught up with them, but some are stayers. *Spare Rib* has been around for more than ten years and has burrowed its way into the lives of women who at one time would not have dreamed of looking inside its covers. It sells 30,000 copies a month and distribution is erratic. In rural areas just getting hold of a copy can be quite a task. Even so, feminist magazines are becoming more available throughout the country as women's groups proliferate.

There are special interest publications for women working in the arts, for lesbians, there are those that drip with magic and mysticism, those devoted to feminist poetry and some so radical that their editors forbid showing them to men.

Almost all of them make extensive use of readers' letters, which are fascinating reading. Ten years ago the letters were either horror stories of male oppression or, more commonly, fan-mail of the "Dear

Rachel Cullen looks at the feminist press and the impact it has on the thinking of women

Sisters, without this mag my life would be a desert variety.

While there is still plenty of a lot of male oppression for sisters to share, the gushing praise has given way to violent argument and frequent threats to cancel subscriptions. It is as bewildering as intruding on a major family row, and as compulsive.

Feminist Zionists are at the throats of feminist pro-Palestinians, black radicals are refusing offers of solidarity from white, lesbian and heterosexual women and each feel that the others get more sympathy from the women's press. There is evident pain and hurt in the thrashing out of these issues, which are seen as dangerous dividers of women and potential destroyers of the Cause.

In political terms within the Women's Liberation Movement these divisions may well be dynamic, but the fury of the quarrels has given to British feminist magazines an acid vitality that is missing in more cosy transatlantic publications.

Big Mama Rag, available in this country is a tabloid newspaper published in Denver, Colorado. Despite the exotic charm of advertisements for the Boulder Lesbian and the Big Mountain Survival Gathering the editorial tone is positively cosy.

Big Mama Rag is distributed free to all women prisoners in American jails. I cannot help wondering what they make of its clunky tone.

There was a time when all the British editorial collectives (these

periodicals all seem to be produced by co-operatives) consisted of women called Liz, Maggi and Anni, all very middle-class though evidently liberated from their Royalist mothers. This led to alliances between the primary loyalty of the magazine and other worthy, liberal, middle-class causes.

The explosive arrival of black and working-class women into feminism is changing this, but it lingers in some magazines such as *Sequel*, "A non-profit, bi-monthly magazine for isolated lesbians". It clearly fulfils a need, and its short stories, poems and cartoons are streets ahead of the polemic that passes for art in most feminist circles.

All the same its readers are reminded inside the front cover that "Sequel" reflects our support of ecology, the animal liberation movement and we encourage vegetarianism and veganism. There may somewhere be a journal for meat-eating lesbians who use sham-poops tested on rabbits, but I have not come across it.

Divisiveness on this level is a vicarious garden party compared with the splits along lines of class and race that are threatening to tear apart even the long-established *Spare Rib*. One minor mercy in this bitter wrangle is that the readers of the magazines are too furious to tinker about with language in a way once obligatory: the irritating

TALKBACK

'Meal ticket' in bad taste

From Mrs Virginia Smith, 16 Magazine Place, Leatherhead, Surrey.

Re Comment "Meal Tickets - the Law will Provide" (Friday Page, November 4) I find the expression "meal ticket" distasteful.

On divorce, my marital home was sold. My half of the proceeds was put down as a deposit on a smaller house for me and our two daughters, of whom I was given care and control. My maintenance is paid in the form of the mortgage repayments as this was the only way I could purchase a home for us. I have worked full-time since before the divorce.

With unemployment as it is, our daughters may live at home for some years to come. Is it really going to help them if we have to leave our home once the youngest is 16?

I have bought up the children of the marriage virtually single-handed. Why should their father be given leave to cast off all responsibility towards them? They go on existing.

Industrial relations

From John Harper, Peter Ambrose and Richard Pemberton, The University of Sussex, Brighton.

Our research into the effects of divorce on men adds weight to the need for industry and commerce to support the study of the causes of marital breakdown.

In our sample of 92 men, two-thirds assessed the effects on their work as serious or disastrous, mostly due to problems of stress-related ill health and accommodation. A quarter of these judged the effects to be permanent.

Over half the men rated their work colleagues and employers as particularly helpful and supportive with the low level of value attached to the official helping agencies, not approached by many men.

We argue that more attention should be given to using the workplace to provide primary support advice and information and as a point of referral for more serious cases. It is evident that many men's problems worsen the longer they suffer in silence and the longer-term costs to them and to their employers increase proportionately.

How to dismantle a marriage without the bitterness



David and Jane, a nice, handsome, middle-class couple living in stockbroker-belt Surrey, had been divorced the day I interviewed them. They had been to court that morning for a judge to grant a decree nisi and to ratify a joint agreement over the future of their two children. But only a few weeks ago such an amicable settlement seemed impossible. They were, in David's words, well on the road to a long, bitter, and expensive High Court battle.

At the turn of the year, Jane had said she wanted a divorce, so that she could marry someone else. For David it was "a bolt from the blue - divorce was always something that happened to other people". But they were both determined to do the best for their children - to try to reach an agreement over them first, before arguing about the house and the money. However, they quickly found this laudable aim obscured as the legal process swung into action.

"One quickly reaches the stage where one doesn't trust the other," Jane says. "The formal language used by the solicitors seems to make it all worse, somehow."

There was conflict over the

children's education. David wanted them to go to private schools; the eldest is already at a boarding school. Another difference arose over the question of which parent the children should live with. Jane's solicitor was against her giving up care and control of their eldest son. In spite of their determination not to let the divorce affect the children, their wrangling was beginning to upset them, too.

"If we had gone on to fight a court battle over them it would have been dreadful," David says. "As it was, our eldest son was getting worried. He heard at school about things like welfare reports from other children whose parents had divorced. I think he half expected a judge to come swooping in through the door wearing long robes and a funny cap."

David's solicitors suggested they should consult the Surrey Family Conciliation Service at Dorking. Neither at that stage knew it existed. They went separately, then together. Within a few weeks they had come to a written arrangement that satisfied them both.

According to Sue Gilpin, their

counsellor, they both basically wanted the same sort of thing for their children but, as with so many well-meaning parents, the emotional upheaval caused by the rift made it very difficult for them to find common ground.

Jane and David think a court hearing would have produced an agreement similar to that reached through conciliation - but at an appalling cost in terms of bitterness as well as money.

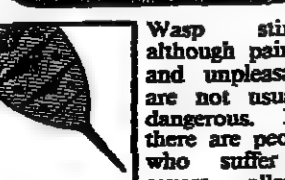
The Government, however, has yet to be convinced that organizations such as the Surrey Family Conciliation Service should be given financial backing. In the past few years about 40 conciliation groups have sprung up around Britain.

The "out of court" conciliation services are independent of the legal process, and those who run them believe they provide a more humane and possibly cheaper way of dealing with the custody and access disputes arising from 160,000 divorces a year.

Bruce Pearce is a divorce court welfare officer who helped found the Surrey service and is chairman of

No more need to fear a wasp sting

MEDICAL BRIEFING



Wasp stings, although painful and unpleasant, are not usually dangerous. But there are people who suffer a severe allergic reaction to a wasp sting: symptoms may range from a high fever to general swelling and difficulty in breathing. Tragically, several people die every year as a result of a sting.

For nearly a decade, techniques have been available for desensitizing these vulnerable people but, since the process involves introducing the natural venom into the bloodstream, it must be done extremely carefully.

Work in Holland with 11 patients with previous experience of a severe allergic reaction to wasp stings, reported in the *British Medical Journal*, has shown that initial desensitization can be completed in as little as six hours. During such a period the patients were injected with venom to four wasp stings but, apart from local swelling and pain at the injection spot, their temperatures did not even rise.

Four weeks later, the patients bravely agreed to have wasps placed under their arms. The treatment gave complete protection two years later, although the group had received regular boosters, all were still safe. Five of the group had been stung in two years but they were no more affected than "normal" people.

The researchers now say they have successfully treated 60 patients, for both wasp and bee stings, but they are still puzzled why their patients do not suffer a massive generalized reaction when the venom is introduced in such a short space of time.

Unsettling

Replacing an employee who breaks down while working abroad can cost a company as much as £50,000, so finding the right person for the job and checking that he or she is fit is much more important than when filling a post in Britain.

Stress when working abroad is a comparatively new area of medical research. A symposium on the in the subject was held in London recently, but there is only one published study, from the United States in 1979, which suggested that as many as 30 per cent of employees do not finish their contracts because of illness.

Dr Ricky Caplan, senior registrar in psychiatry at St George's Hospital, south London, has just started a study, which is to last about three years, to discover how 50 couples cope with living and working overseas. But he has already come across companies which care little for the welfare of their staff and as many as 70 per cent of those employees return home before their contracts expire. At the other end of the scale, companies which provide support for their employees are unlikely to lose more than 10 per cent of staff through physical or emotional illness, he believes.

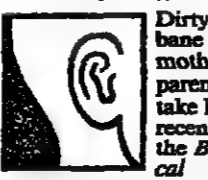
"When people start new jobs at home they have friends and family to turn to when they are under stress, but this network doesn't exist abroad. People have to cope with the new job, a change in lifestyle and a strange culture," Dr Caplan observes.

Good companies, he adds, make arrangements to ensure that new employees settle in well and are introduced to other expatriates as soon as they arrive.

Dr Caplan gives one illustration of why it is important not to underestimate the pressures of working abroad. It comes from a study of admissions to the Hospital for Tropical Dis-

eases in London. The survey revealed that nearly 50 per cent of patients suffered from psychosomatic illness - rather than any obscure ailment picked up during their temporary exile.

Wall of wax



Dirty ears are the bane of many a mother's life, but parents should take heart from a recent report in the *British Medical Journal*.

Over-zealous cleaning of children's ears with cotton-tipped swabs can cause more problems than it solves.

Dr Peter Baxter, now of the Royal Hospital for Sick Children, Edinburgh, surveyed 111 children in south-west London. He found that in 41 cases the view into the ear was obscured by dense wax plugs. Ninety per cent of these children had had their ears cleaned with swabs, while those of the other 10 per cent were cleaned less vigorously with flannels or fingers.

Cotton-tipped swabs may actually push the wax deeper into the ear. The plugs, moreover, can be very irritating for the children, but, more seriously, they block the view of the tympanic membrane - the outer skin shield of the main ear mechanism. This makes it extremely difficult for a doctor or nurse to tell whether there are any problems. Many children suffer from middle ear infections which may cause temporary deafness but, if a plug is there, it is almost impossible to determine whether the deafness is caused that or whether there is a hidden infection.

Dr Baxter's advice is: Never push a cotton-tipped swab into the centre of the ear. He would also like warnings on swab packets to be changed from advice against "entering" or

"inserting into" the "ear canal" to more strongly worded statements telling users to avoid using the swabs on the ears.

Niven appeal

The David Niven appeal for the Motor Neurone Disease Association (MNDA), launched last month by Douglas Fairbanks Junior and Anthony Quigley is going well, although the response so far has not been overwhelming, according to its organizers.

The appeal aims to raise £250,000 by Christmas to help sufferers and promote research into the disease from which the actor died last July. About 6,000 people in this country suffer from it.

Motor neurone disease is a degenerative illness of the nerve cells responsible for muscle control. Its victims are normally people in middle and old age, and there is no known cure.

Some evidence suggests that the disease could be caused by a virus. Many sufferers, for example, had polio at a younger age. Dr F. Clifford Rose, the MNDA's medical patron, has found that an antiviral agent can prevent twitching in some patients. Part of the research funds will be allocated to a further examination of this reaction, he says.

Other evidence suggests that people with motor neurone disease could lack elements vital to their body's biochemistry, or that there could be environmental causes. One hundred times more sufferers than anywhere else in the world are found on Guam in the South Pacific, for example. Tapioca cooked in a traditional manner there has been shown to contain a high percentage of cyanide, which is a possible cause of the high incidence of the disease.

Olivia Timbs and Lorraine Fraser

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Russian Sable Coat	£22,500	£16,800
Russian Sable Jacket	£18,500	£9,800
Russian Sable Jacket	£15,200	£8,600
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Canadian Lynx Coat	£10,500	£5,900
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THE TIMES DIARY

All the hacks that fit

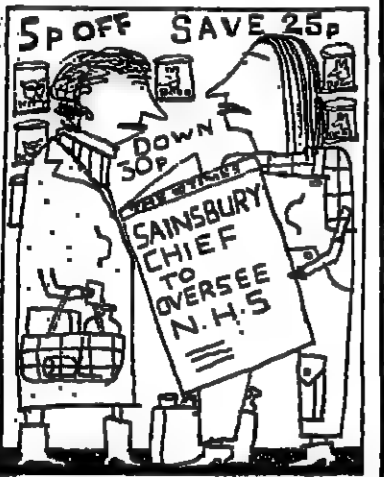
Now that the Caribbean seems to be an almost permanent hotspot, it's good news for the Cuban economy. The Grenadian episode brought 120 western journalists to the Havana Riviera Hotel, all needing rooms, meals, telephones, telex machines and elbow-room at the bar. More hard currency was handed over by the television crews than the four major US networks and our own Channel 4 News and BBC 2's Newsnight, who handed over studio facilities at the Cuban television station's headquarters and for satellite communications with which to bounce their reports back to New York and London. The total media bill is thought to be \$200,000 (about £133,000).

● Please do not feel ill while staying at the Hotel Bayerischer Hof Munich. A doctor will visit at any time, it is true, but the hotel brochure promises "liquidation after agreement".

Pram's a sham

Nigerians are so reluctant to give up the good life in the face of falling oil revenues that they have developed smuggling into an art form. Videos, for example, come into the country by the container load, marked as baby-carriages. President Shagari is so concerned that he is setting up a Ministry of National Guidance to implement an "ethical reorientation programme". Economic sabotage, which also includes corruption and fraud, has not only become institutionalized, he says, but is "fast becoming a business pursuit in our country".

BARRY FANTONI



"Surely this can only mean more cuts?"

Long runner

The yellow 1934 Daimler, owned by the *Spectator's* proprietor, Algy Cluff, and offered to the winner of that magazine's current competition, had not been driven for several years when it was taken out of storage and marked First Prize. On examination, its big end was found to be faulty. This has now been repaired and the motor car is in perfect running order.

Backing Brittan

Having been severely criticized for his muddled speech during the Commons debate on capital punishment, Leon Brittan, the Home Secretary, slightly redeemed himself with an altogether more fluent discourse on law and order at his party's Blackpool conference last month. This speech might well have been a disaster, too, if Brittan had been allowed to have his way. He had planned, in his peroration, to protect, "at any cost", not public order or safety, but private property. Luckily, he was persuaded by more experienced hands that this was not the sort of thing a minister should say aloud.

Men wage war

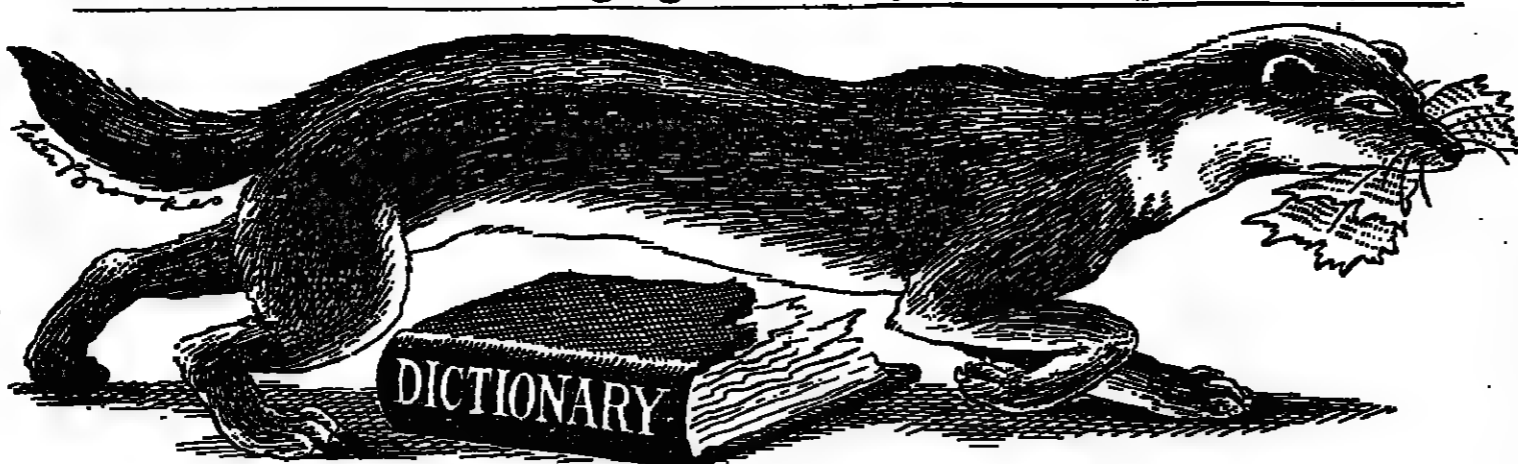
Ominous-sounding news for women workers hoping to challenge inequalities at work under the new equal pay legislation, due to come into force next January 1: the impression one gets from a document issued by Hambro Housley Legal Protection Ltd is that the nation's businessmen will be fighting the new laws to the death. To help them, Hambro Housley is setting up a hot-line to help "the hard-pressed businessman" fight off aggressive females armed with a copy of the pertinent regulations. In case this presents a too-depressing picture, Hambro Housley admits that "some companies will suffer less than others from this latest piece of employment legislation".

On a loser

Last week, it was reported on our financial pages that in 1980, a goodish year for aviation insurance, Syndicate 862 lost £17,000 for every £10,000 of premium income written. Some of the more heavily committed syndicate members, including jockey Lester Piggott, have as a result lost more than £50,000. While other members are threatening to reach for their solicitors, Piggott has not so far complained. This is perhaps out of loyalty to Mr Charles St George, chairman of the Oakley Vaughan Agency. This is the outfit that managed the hapless Syndicate 862 when it achieved a 170 per cent loss while the Lloyds Aviation market as a whole was turning in respectable profits. Ten years ago, Piggott owed one of his most famous victories to Mr St George's horse Rheingold, which he rode to a splendid victory in the Prix de l'Arc de Triomphe.

PHS

How 'social' abuses the language: F. A. Hayek on Newspeak exemplified



Beware this weasel word

Friedrich von Hayek, the Austrian economist, won a Nobel Prize in 1974. His work on monetarism has profoundly influenced the policies of Margaret Thatcher's government. This article is taken from work in progress reproduced in *The Salisbury Review*.



despotism can be achieved democratically, while preserving the freedom of the individual, can also be maintained if the word "democratic" is emasculated into "social democracy".

It would require a separate book to show how much this magic word has in a great variety of connexions misled policy; making proposals seem incontrovertibly good merely by labelling the particular interest which they serve as "social". "Social" has in fact become a class concept, authorizing one class to help itself from the pockets of another, and extending democracy from a device limiting the arbitrary power of a few to a procedure that makes any coercive power legitimate so long as the delegates of the majority think that their decisions will gain additional votes by means of it. Because of this, "social" has in a great measure taken the place of the difficult but important conception of common interest, and is now applied to much that is clearly contrary to any true common interest.

Much the worst of the deceptive uses of "social" is in the phrase "social justice". It is, as a distinguished man much more courageous than I bluntly expressed it 25 years ago, "a semantic fraud from the same stable as People's Democracy" (Charles Curran, *The Spectator*, July 4, 1958).

The alarming extent to which the term has already perverted the thinking of the younger generation is illustrated by a recent Oxford doctor's thesis on *Social Justice* (David Miller, 1976). The author barely notices the traditional conception of justice, his attitude to which is typified by the remark that "there appears to be a category of 'private justice' which concerns the dealings of man with his fellows when he is not acting as a participant in one of the major social institutions". Throughout the

thesis, justice is consistently treated anthropomorphically, as the manner in which a personified "society" "treats" the different individuals who belong to it. The fact is that "society" would not exist, nor would most of its members be alive, if their relative income were determined by this second kind of "justice". The product to feed them would normally be available only in conditions which also determine its distribution.

It is as meaningless to call this spontaneous distribution unjust as it would be to call it just. It is simply not capable of bearing such an attribute. Only human actions can be just or unjust: the task of government cannot be to create just conditions, but only to prevent unjust actions. To describe as just or unjust a state of affairs that men have made and could not have created, and to which most of them owe their existence, is giving expression to fantasies in socialist baby language. It would indeed be pleasing to our feelings if the world had been made by an almighty spirit whose views about what is desirable were the same as ours. But our present wisdom is not ultimate wisdom and if it had guided evolution, we should never have climbed down from the trees.

A product of evolution can only be preserved by the same process of continuous adaptation to unforeseen circumstances as that which had produced it in the first place. Evolution cannot be just, since it operates by giving people what they did not foresee or intend. All evolution is the result of changing blindly on a modification of conduct better adapted to objective conditions than the traditional ones. To believe that one can improve this by assigning appropriate rewards to those who do best, is to presume that we are already as wise as only yet further experience can make us. If for the last two or three hundred years a government had effectively enforced the prevailing conceptions of "social justice", civilization – and the number of people which it maintains – could never have appeared.

Of course, a consistent socialism emphasizes that only if we could give a supreme authority unlimited power to force the individuals to do what this authority thinks to be desirable could anything like social justice be achieved. That this would deprive us of the main source of our capacity to rear and maintain millions is disregarded. The great illusion is that freedom and just distribution can be combined. Communism is in this regard at least logically consistent, while democratic socialism is simply muddled.

Bryan Appleyard on the struggle behind the scenes for control of state subsidies

Early next week the 250 recipients of annual Arts Council subsidies will receive a rather odd letter. Designed to be known as The Ikley Letter it was conceived at a three-day brainstorming session at the Craiglands Hotel, Ikley, to which the members of the council retreated last month to confront the future.

The bemused managements of theatres, orchestras, opera and ballet companies will be asked what would happen to them if (a) their subsidy was withdrawn or drastically cut or (b) if it was substantially increased. They must reply by the end of the year and by March 31 next year the council will have drawn its conclusions to be acted upon in 1985-86.

They should consider their answers carefully because this strange, oblique approach represents perhaps the most important new direction since the Arts Council was founded almost 40 years ago. It comes at the end of one difficult year for the council and marks the beginning of another. The outcome will either be a successful defence of the council's traditions of welfare-inspired subsidising on behalf of the arts and of its belief in the separation of central government from the creativity it supports – or it will be their defeat.

Although the official council line is that The Ikley Letter is a logical development which would have happened anyway, it is directly related to three major documents which have emerged from Westminster over the past year.

The first was the Select Committee report on *Public and Private Funding of the Arts*, published in October 1982. This began well for the Arts Council with its enthusiastic endorsement of the centrality of the arts in British life and their economic importance. Their turnover was estimated at about £1,000m and they were thought to employ at least 200,000 people. More advanced statistical analysis has since suggested that, when broadcasting, publishing and all ancillary industries are brought in, the true turnover may be as high as £3,000m.

The bad news followed. The report had serious doubts about the present structure of the council. It recommended significant levels of devolution to the regions and away from the headquarters at 105 Piccadilly. It also called for funds for the national arts companies to be previously earmarked by the Government, removing a large part of the council's ability to control its own destiny. The response from 105 ranged from the unenthusiastic to the bitter.

Then came the government scrutiny of the financial affairs of the Royal Opera House and the Royal Shakespeare Company. Again the scrutineer, Clive Priestley, began with the good news: neither



Lord Gower, aiming for a ministry with muscle? Right, Rees-Mogg and Rittner, fighting for their future

Ikley: the art of hitting back

organization was unduly profligate, both were underfunded and both were central to our way of life. But... Priestley floated the idea of direct funding of the national companies without any Arts Council involvement. That would mean slicing off the four peaks of the pyramids of excellence – the RSC, the ROH, the National Theatre and the English National Opera – leaving the council with the remainder. That would mark the end of its role as sole guardian of the great and good in British arts and an end to the precious "arm's length" principle which has supposedly kept politics out of the arts. Lord Goodman, the arch representative of the old school of arts subsidy thinking, demanded Priestley's scrutineers left at once when he discovered them at a Covent Garden board meeting. He was too late.

Finally along came *Streamlining the Cities*, the White Paper outlining the Government's plans for abolition of the top tier local authorities. This would leave dozens of arts organizations without local subsidies, so the Government was obliged to come up with specific alternative funding proposals.

Against the inhabitants of 105 were dismayed. One describes the proposals as "Option Z – a fall-back position that is so far back it is out of sight," another more succinctly labelled them as "absolute bloody nonsense." In essence the proposals singled out nine performing arts companies and five museums and art galleries as being of national importance. These would receive an increase in central support. As for the rest they would have to seek local authority money and commercial sponsorship to carry on.

"There is great scope for entrepreneurial initiative in this field," remarked the government drafter with a consummate blandness that caused apoplexy at 105. The point is, they say, that there is no compulsion on local authorities to take up the financial slack, and commercial sponsorship is simply not the goldmine the Government appears to believe.

In this apocalyptic context the Ikley Letter can be seen as an attempt by the council to take the initiative. It is clear that Sir William Rees-Mogg, the relatively new chairman, and Luke Rittner, the relatively new secretary general, now

think the greatest danger lies in doing nothing. The implication of the letter is that the council is, in the words of one member, going to make its grants "leashhold rather than freehold" and is prepared to get tougher in its decision making.

Tony Field, the council finance director, has long advocated this course as the only logical response to a climate in which total funds are either flat or declining. It does, however, put an end to the benign tradition of "response" subsidy which has been so dear to the old hands at 105. "Response" means the council is ready with the cash to apply to new outcrops of creativity as they occur. In the new climate the creativity will have to find its way to the cash.

The present situation also makes it clear that Rees-Mogg and Rittner are far from the Tory party placemen identified in the more hysterical outpourings from the predominantly left-wing Arts Council. They are now fighting for the quality of their future lives as much as anybody else.

Their primary tactic appears to be to attempt to embarrass Lord Gower, the Arts Minister. If all the most dire predictions being made come true then he will find himself being put down in history as the Arts Minister who presided over a drastic contraction of the subsidized arts.

So far he has indicated he does not wish to see the national companies directly funded, but he could still go for "marking" of cash to be channelled through a necessarily passive council. Meanwhile streamlining of the authorities looms larger, although the more widely optimistic at 105 are pinning their hopes on the belief that it will never happen.

Infinitely preferable to the Cabinet may well be a large element of direct funding, with a shiftable down Arts Council responsible for general and future planning rather than simply struggling to get the cheques out so the curtain may rise at the Bristol Old Vic. Lord Gower's move on his appointment in separating the arts from the Department of Education and Science could eventually be seen as the first step along this road to a Ministry of Culture. Senior civil servants have already been heard to refer to the arts as a "mini-ministry".

So the trend is towards taking more of the arts into Whitehall. The Ikley Letter is an indication that the council has seen the importance of visibly taking charge of its own destiny as a counter to any such moves. It is a morale booster and unifying force at 105. Yet there remain those who persist in seeing a terrible portent in the title of the play the whole council trooped off to see at Manchester's Royal Exchange Theatre on the first night of the Ikley brainstorm – it was *The Dance of Death*.

David Watt

Links that bind but do not tie down

Writing about the Grenada affair two weeks ago, I argued that we had been given another painful demonstration of the need for better machinery within the Western Alliance for coping with crises outside the Nato area. It is an old theme of mine that these misunderstandings will continue to tear us apart unless and until the Europeans and Americans can offer each other a fair exchange in relation to third world instability; on the European side, responsible cooperation; and on the American, genuine consultations.

Since then Kenneth Dam, the US Deputy Secretary of State, has come and gone on his placatory mission to Downing Street and events in Lebanon have blacked into his face. Mrs Thatcher has told him that she does not think that a punitive American raid, with the Israelis, on the alleged perpetrators of the attack on the US Marines would be wise at the moment when a conference of the Lebanese parties is making a desperate attempt in Geneva at a settlement.

Mr Dam was obliged to say that he noted her views but could give no assurance that the President would take a bit of notice of what she said. What is more, he could not give her any guarantees that the US would not allow the resumption of arms sales to Argentina – which is as if she had remarked to him that the British Government were considering the early export of explosives to the Syrians and possibly old lorries to carry them in.

On the face of it all this underlines the original point. Our relationship with the US is clearly in difficulties if this kind of chilly and superficial exchange is the best consultation that can be achieved. Yet there are other legitimate ways of looking at the matter.

Two main lines of attack on my original thesis have come to light. The first is the pragmatic Establishment position, which has been weakly explained to me by politicians and bureaucrats of more than one party and more than one department. It goes something like this: "For years and years we have been trying to improve consultation, and since the Argentinian fiasco we have redoubled our efforts. As a result, Nato (and even the French within Nato) now permits itself to discuss these matters. The seven-nation summit deliberates upon them. The 'Berlin' powers (the US, Britain, France and West Germany) use their meetings as a tacit cover for a 'Directorate' to argue over them. There are endless consultations through the Washington embassies. There are ad hoc groups such as the meeting in Paris last week of the foreign ministers of countries contributing to the peace-keeping force in Lebanon.

"It has resulted in a great deal of contingency planning and a reasonable certainty that if anything happens in a way which we have foreseen, we shall know how the land lies. What we have not covered – nobody can cover – is those events which we did not foresee or which do not turn out the way we expect (which is to say, if not most of the outcomes of the real world) and those areas where there is an irreducible divergence of opinion or interest between the US and ourselves."

This is not much comfort but it is a useful definition of the problem in

that it limits the area of Alliance disagreement a little. The US action in Grenada, for example, can be assigned to the first category and by these means defused. The American story ("request from the Caribbean states came very late; President had to make up his mind very fast; we told you more than we told our own Congress but wish we'd had time for more; terribly sorry") is pretty thin, in one or two obvious spots, but given a bit of benevolent credulity on our part, it will just about serve.

On the other hand, that experience showed how much damage these unexpected occurrences can wreak, and that where there is a serious divergence the US is likely to go ahead anyway.

It is this last factor that prompts the other attack – on my assertion that we ought to overhaul the consultative mechanism: "Maybe you are right in principle that we can get more consultation from the Americans if we are prepared to take more joint responsibility with them. But in the last resort (and often long before the last resort, because of the nature of the American policy-making machine) the US will act on its own."

"This means that if we get any closer to the Americans we shall become more than ever implicated in their designs and identified with them in the face of world opinion without any real, commensurate control over their actions. It is better to keep a bit aloof and leave them to reap the consequences of their own follies. Indeed, so far as we really want to help the Alliance we may be in a better position to pick up the pieces if we are not part of the herd that trampled through the china shop."

This again is all very well, but, like the first objection, leaves too many holes. Can we really maintain US support in Europe if we, the Europeans, are not willing to be involved outside Europe? And in the extraordinary dangerous circumstances of today where a world conflagration could easily flare out of regional conflict, is not some consultation with the US, even if inadequate, better than none? It is too much as I write to wonder whether British and French advice on the Lebanon will be heeded; but isn't it true that if we had not taken the risk of exposing a detachment of British soldiers to the hazards of the crisis and the criticisms of Enoch Powell, we should have had no standing in the Lebanon argument whatever?

It seems to me that these arguments do indeed show that there is a point at which the law of diminishing returns sets in. If we words, one cannot hope to tie down a superpower at every point as the Lilliputians did Gulliver. Further interests are involved. The Americans will ultimately break loose whatever the rights and wrongs of the argument; and there is no point in completely destroying our own freedom of action in order to produce this result. And yet the Grenada affair and the shadow of what might happen in the Gulf if, say, the Iranians block the Straits of Hormuz suggests that consultation could be quite a lot better without being unrealistic. Whether the present US administration, or indeed the present European governments, are prepared to make necessary compromises is another question.

Philip Howard

Sour grapes about the fruit machines

My heart warmed to Sir Douglas Wass when I heard that he had described one of his political masters as the only man in England who could spend all day reading the *Daily Mail*. To spend even 30 seconds "reading" it is quite enough, he said, to get a good idea of the country's mood (and pretty well the only book reviewer is a good, perverse read. The trouble I have with the *Mail* is hiding it under the other papers so that I am not spotted by my high-minded neighbours as a shameless *Mail*-reader. I get the ghastly thing only because I am promising to make me a millionaire.

Who wants to be a millionaire? My family has come to the conclusion that the only hope we have of getting a new secondhand car to replace the old war-chariot, which is using a tank of oil to a tank of petrol, and making terminal noise of idleness, is to win one of these competitions in the tabloid press that appeal to our avarice, greed, and other human qualities.

I am well aware that my chances of winning a million are as remote as my chances of singing counter-tenor at Covent Garden or playing striker for England. But if you do not try for such nonsense, you will never be rich.

The trouble is that the various

gambling competitions, with silly names such as Bonanza, are of a trivial complexity quite beyond me. I have never had the patience to understand how to work a fruit machine. When given an instruction like, "If any of the numbers below refer to balls that are circled in black on Super Snooker Frame One on your card..." and carrying on for several paragraphs, the old mind clouds over. I am back at prep school on a hot summer afternoon trying to understand the difference between permutations and combinations, and I decide to forget it.

Snooker all those balls circled in black. No doubt it would take Sir Douglas Wass less than all day to work out the jargon of the competitions, but not if he had me beside him making helpful suggestions.

I worry that not only do I not have the gambler's instinct, but I have not the gambler's skills that

every other adult in Britain, including readers of the *Daily Mail*, possesses. If they can be bothered, why can't I? If the lodger or a 10-year-old boy can tell at once which wheel on the fruit machine needs to be jogged forward to maximize the chance of a jackpot, why do I have to go into an irrelevant Pythagorean meditation about the rival merits of three strawberries and a row of beans?

One answer to the vexing question is to come up with three sour grapes on the fruit machine. The federated flute-girls' union, pedlars of quack medicines, maharishis and other holy beggars, strippers, comics, watchers of video nasties, and readers of the paps can fill in their football pool coupons. We superior and elite intellectual snobs have better things to do. This does not seem to me a very attractive or persuasive attitude. It must be a weakness to be so hopelessly incompetent at something that absorbs and gives pleasure to so many of one's fellow citizens.

It is all very well to cry that the barbarians are over the Danube. They always have been, dear boy. And moaning about it is not going to change things. I suppose I could take evening classes in competition technique.

I am certainly not going to start reading the horoscopes just to keep up with the barbarians. All astrology is hogwash and piffle, a way of pointing the simple-minded to the stars. I am dismayed by its raging popularity with my intelligent and rational fellow-citizens. To say, "Of course I don't believe in it, but I always have a look at my Stars; just for a laugh", is a betrayal of one's intelligence. It is *la trahison des clercs*. Fruit machines and competitions, possibly, Snorko and the curse of Virgo, not on your Nostradamus.

The thing to do is to resign oneself to not being a millionaire. The thing to do with barbarians is to civilize them. The Romans did it with notable success to those who came over the Danube. Rome fell; but the Italians, the French, the Spanish, and the others who sprung from the ruins are not notably uncivilized.



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TEBBIT LAW IS THE LAW

We have not heard the last of the Mercury case. Wednesday's Appeal Court hearing was technically Act Two of a ponderous three-act curtain-raiser. Act Three (scene: The House of Lords) will follow in about three weeks, and the formal presentation of the main drama will not take the stage till well into next year. The judges who have twice considered whether in the meantime to grant Mercury an injunction against blocking by the Post Office Engineering Union have done so by a process of guesswork as to the likely ending of the last Act.

The balance of likelihood has been sharply altered by the dramatic courtroom stroke of revealing a job security agreement which casts into doubt the union's claim that its motives were "wholly or mainly" industrial, as the law requires, rather than political. If job security was the real issue, surely the union would at least have mentioned the agreement, if only to ask for it to be strengthened. But whatever the final twist may prove to be, the case already appears for quite another reason to be a significant landmark in the history of relations between trade unions and government. For the POEU has bowed its head to the 1982 Act.

One question has hung over the Government's series of legislative sallies against the privileges of the trade unions: hardly anyone has used them. The new powers enabling aggrieved parties to seek damages from unions engaged in certain kinds of industrial action, which

formerly had immunity, have scarcely been resorted to. At the same time the recession has imposed its own curbs on workers' readiness to jeopardise their jobs by striking. Is the fall in the number of disputes due only to this, a phenomenon to be reversed when times improve? Or are the new laws a factor too available to be invoked even though not actually brought into play? Or would a union defy them if it felt its essential interests were at stake, and perhaps draw the whole movement into a confrontation?

There is no doubt that many POEU members felt that their essential interests were at stake in the Mercury case. The union entered the dispute with all the sense of rectitude of a normally moderate union which is unused to the tactical calculations of industrial warfare, and has recently put its fortunes in the hands of left-wing leaders who voice its sense of grievance. This is a characteristic pattern pointing to an obstinate and destructive - even self-destructive - conflict. The union had cast itself as trail-blazer for the rest of the labour movement, wherever public sector workers were faced with the threat of privatization, and was hoping for support (in funds and sympathetic action) from other unions. But the granting of the injunction has led both executive and delegate conference to vote for a return to work. The penalties of defiance, falling on union funds as well as individuals, were just too heavy.

Closer inspection may make the matter seem rather less clear-

cut, but the main point still stands. The union has embarked on its action on terms which were already imposing crippling financial burdens on its resources, while inflicting disappointingly little damage on the employers. The prevailing atmosphere of inhibition on striking for fear of risking one's job may not have directly inhibited the strikers (protected by virtue of the agreement so tardily advertised). But the atmosphere must have helped to create the distinct lack of enthusiasm on the TUC's part to spring to the POEU's aid.

The precedent has been created, and will be influential. The ice has been broken for unions faced with the choice between maintaining the pretence that the Employment Acts are illegitimate and ephemeral interlopers on the statute-book, or bowing to the law, so as to protect union funds. It is for Parliament to make laws, as it is for it to make policy about the privatization of public enterprises. If this week's ruling stands, and unions are prevented from using their industrial power with the principal purpose of obstructing those policies - a political purpose - that is as it should be. Politics can seldom be absent from public sector disputes, but it should not predominate, and the courts should be ready to ensure that it does not. The tradition of British trade unionism is to respect the law and work within it, and the POEU has acted in the spirit of that tradition: even Tebbit law is law when Parliament has said so.

TOGETHERNESS IN BONN

There is a very comfortable feel about Anglo-German relations at the moment, as Mrs Thatcher found on her visit to Bonn this week. On the personal level she gets on much better with Herr Kohl than with his somewhat abrasive socialist predecessor, who had the added disadvantage from her point of view of being her senior in office and not anxious to forget it. Herr Kohl is a relative new boy with an easy personality and less ideological luggage, a sort of German Whitelaw with whom she feels at home, although very different in temperament.

On the political level as well the two conservative governments have drawn closer. Both are determined to press ahead with deployment of the new American missiles as long as there is no agreement in Geneva. Both would be happy to have their numbers reduced if there were an agreement after deployment, though the British are rather more sceptical of the chances of such an agreement. Both leaders have been some-

what bruised by the lack of consultation before the American action in Grenada, and by the boost which this has given to anti-American sentiment. Herr Kohl was not consulted at all, and Mrs Thatcher was consulted but not heeded. But the damage has not gone deep, and Herr Kohl, at any rate, seems unruffled, although the pressure he faces from the protest groups is greater.

Meanwhile in the European Community both countries are net contributors and both are feeling the pinch at home, so there is more agreement than there was on the need for reform. Until recently the Germans, while admitting the need, were very cautious about pressing for real change. Now they seem more likely to join Britain in demanding action.

The Anglo-German relationship has obviously become closer since the Socialist victory in France. Mrs Thatcher admires Mitterrand's foreign policy but the French have become distrustful of Germany, which casts

a shadow over relations. It is therefore all the more important that Britain should continue to support West Germany's diplomatic efforts without the same suspicions. The Germans remain wholly loyal to Nato policy and deeply cautious in the pursuit of their own national interest. They share the suspicions of their allies about Soviet aims and are just as committed to maintaining military security. But because they are on the front line and therefore the most vulnerable, and because their nation is divided, they are bound to try harder to prevent East-West tensions deepening the division of Europe.

The fact that in this area the Christian Democrats have continued the policies of the Social Democrats shows that it is as much a question of national interest as of coalition politics. Mrs Thatcher obviously understands this and has herself spoken recently of the need for dialogue, so she has a valuable role to play in helping the Germans to feel less alone.

BRAZIL'S ARMOURY OF DEBT

Last month the Brazilian Congress dramatically rejected Decree Law 2045, which as part of the country's agreement with the International Monetary Fund limited all wage increases to 80 per cent of the rise in the cost-of-living. It has now passed a somewhat less draconian successor, Decree Law 2065, and the Fund and the banks are likely soon to resume lending. The "critical mass" of participants is materialising. This painful process has brought into focus once again the problems posed by a major Latin American debtor nation.

The problems faced are not uniform. Unlike Mexico, Brazil has no oil, and lacks what in current circumstances is the economic advantage of a border with the United States. Brazil has a huge and labyrinthine public sector, and has not always been a straightforward negotiator, but she can argue with greater justification than either Mexico or Argentina that her present position is no simple result of corruption, speculation and mismanagement. Few countries can have made more vigorous efforts in recent years to escape from restraints by finding new exports and new

trading partners. These have been vulnerable in recession, and through retaliation some of them will be lost as Brazil restricts her own imports. Brazilian industry, and more particularly Brazil's modernized agriculture, are heavily dependent on imported inputs. The crisis threatens a much more urban, sophisticated and index-conscious society than the one the army took over in 1964.

This is inevitably reflected in politics. President Figueiredo still has extensive powers, and he can invoke emergencies, but he cannot so easily invoke authority. He comes at the end of two decades of military rule, and the political advances of the last years make a return to repression no simple matter, especially at foreign behest. The government is not practised in bargaining, but it faces an opposition that will demand political concessions for what austerity it is prepared to grant.

The Fund and the bankers repeat that they are confident that successive debt-crises can be managed, one at a time. The timing also colours each crisis, and the Brazilians are perhaps unlucky in coming after the Mexicans, who had the good

fortune to get into difficulties first and who for the moment appear to be following prescribed courses, and immediately before the Argentines. The International Monetary Fund, far from crisis-free itself, cannot afford loss of authority, though it has shown a large measure of sympathy towards the Brazilian case.

How many of the intentions in Brazil's letter of intent can be fulfilled remains to be seen. The current agreement is a welcome temporary solution, but nobody believes that it is anything more than that. The extent of Brazil's indebtedness, as with Mexico, gives the borrower a conceivable weapon of defence against the demands of the lender. The Brazilians will be negotiating again in a year or so, many observers believe, under a newly-elected government, the first elected government in twenty years. Will the Fund or the bankers or - just as important - the debtors themselves who will all by then have been through a further cycle of rescues in Argentina, in Venezuela, in Chile and Peru, have devised any new thinking to break out of the moral hazard of international debt?

GLC abolition: closer attention to the individual needs of the boroughs with full financial accountability to the local communities, something that Mr Livingstone's GLC administration has consistently failed to do. Mr Livingstone claims that individual boroughs' financial situations may affect the level of service they can provide, an argument he consistently puts forward as a reason for keeping the GLC intact. His naive mathematics overlook the fact that hundreds of millions of pounds are given to the GLC every year in local rate precepts, money that could be more usefully directed to local services at less cost to the ratepayers. Yours sincerely, SHIRLEY PORTER, Leader, Westminster City Council, City of Westminster, PO Box 240, Westminster City Hall, Victoria Street, SW1.

Role of the GLC

From the Leader of Westminster City Council. Sir, GLC Leader Ken Livingstone's assertion (October 31) that the public would be put at risk if the London boroughs take over the licensing of theatres and cinemas is completely ludicrous.

At present, the GLC employs only four inspectors to handle cinema and public entertainment licensing for the whole of Greater London: a certain formula for producing the "patchy and inconsistent" services he claims will result from a London borough takeover.

Compare this completely inadequate provision with Westminster's approach to the licensing of sex shops, with a self-contained unit of shops, and inspectors, and Mr Livingstone's argument is destroyed. In a recent interview Mr Living-

stone said the general public were not at all interested in entertainment licensing, which he dismissed as "of little importance". This shows how out of touch he is with local London affairs.

Westminster's initiative in producing sex shop licensing legislation was a reflection of local concern at the effects of the industry on community life. Our determined campaigning on this issue has brought benefits not only for London but for the rest of the country and the assumption of responsibility for cinema and public entertainment can only serve to increase the pressure on the sex industry in Soho.

Local control over all aspects of public entertainment is to be welcomed. It is the only way to ensure that community interests are given proper attention. This is the real point at issue on

the individual needs of the boroughs with full financial accountability to the local communities, something that Mr Livingstone's GLC administration has consistently failed to do.

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Still a need for Crown Agents

From Sir John Cuckney. Sir, Towards the end of the secondary banking crisis in 1974, when I became Senior Crown Agent and Chairman, I inherited an historic and excellent organisation which in one area, and one area alone, was in difficulties: namely, in its own account dealing.

The background to these problems and how they arose has been exhaustively examined, first by the Fay committee appointed in 1975 and reporting in 1977, and secondly by a 1921 Act tribunal of inquiry appointed in 1978 and reporting in 1982.

The most significant issue to emerge from these lengthy and thorough examinations was not what the Crown Agents had done but rather how they could have been allowed to operate in this way at all. However, when reflecting on those unwise investments - even with the benefit of hindsight - we should remember that it is possible accurately to recreate the atmosphere in which those investment decisions were taken and that there were many reputable financial institutions which were also found wanting during that particular period.

From the time that the 1974 crisis became a public issue and throughout the many years of investigations and reports, surrounded by international publicity the Crown Agents' traditional business not only survived but flourished. Recently there has been talk of closure following a setback caused by the loss of one major customer.

I have maintained a keen interest in the Crown Agents' fortunes since leaving in 1978 and I would like to join the Director General of the CBI and others in pleading that they be allowed to continue their unique and valuable service especially to developing countries.

Many small and medium-sized British companies find that the Crown Agents' operations are of great value in their own export efforts. Last year more than 2,400 private companies benefited from nearly £40m of export contracts as a direct result of the Crown Agents' work. I do not wish to catalogue the varied and valuable services the Crown Agents provide, but must emphasise that much of their work is not immediately quantifiable. Working in over 72 different countries, they have developed good will towards the UK, a predilection for British goods and services and for British standards and expertise. Yours faithfully, JOHN CUCKNEY, The Athenaeum, Fall Mall, SW1, November 9.

The peace movement

From Ms Sarah Haskins. Sir, A low standard of journalism is now expected from papers such as the *Sun* and *Daily Star*, but surely not *The Times*. And not just on any page, but in the leader? Your comment (November 3) that "credit must also be given to the women of Greenham Common, his (Mr Heseltine's) most reliable allies in the battle for middle opinion" and that it was "angry of him... to appear to be ready to shoot them" must surely go down in the records as one of your paper's most patronising and, yes, sickeningly pompous, remarks in its long history.

The Times has always, it seems to me, set itself as the leader in the thinking man's daily reading matter, the paper our intellectual and other leaders, captains of industry etc, read. And the standard of its comment on the arms race and the peace movement in general indicates a level of intelligent thinking usually associated with the gutter press or, indeed, chimpanzees in the Zoo.

Whatever one's views on defence, to slander in such a manner and so constantly women who have shown such persistent courage in fighting the possibility of our nuclear obliteration does, in its turn, invite some very gloomy contemplation of the sort of society we are creating for ourselves.

How many times does *The Times* have to be told that women make up half, yes half, the population of this country? They deserve better treatment than that.

Yours faithfully, SARAH HASKINS, 81 Kelvin Road, N3.

Farm tenancies

From Mr Oscar Colburn. Sir, Your distinguished correspondent, Mr H. Fell and others (October 25), draw attention to impending legislation which is designed to stabilise or increase in size the tenanted sector of British agriculture. Few people who have studied the subject believe that in its present form the proposed Bill, which is based on an outdated agreement between the CLA (Country Landowners' Association) and the NFU (National Farmers' Union), has any chance of achieving its objectives. It seems likely to occupy parliamentary time to little advantage.

There is general agreement that the landlord/tenant system has made an enormous contribution to the success of British agriculture. It has made possible an efficient separation of capital inputs between owners and occupiers of land. It has created opportunities for farmers who can finance production but who lack the resources or the requirement for a different type of investment in land ownership. It has made possible the kind of settled family farming, which in the interests of a healthy rural infrastructure, most western nations try to achieve.

The most compelling motive for success in a high risk, long cycle industry like agriculture is the involvement by resident farmers who have a hope of bequeathing the results of investment and land improvement to competent successors.

For a variety of reasons successive Governments have created disincentives to the economically useful function of letting farm land, while simultaneously encouraging the diversion of scarce capital resources

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

'Hit list' for university closures

From the General Secretary of the Association of University Teachers. Sir, The creation of a so-called "hit list" for closure of universities is scarcely the most fruitful way of opening up the debate on the future of higher education. Sir Peter Swinnerton-Dyer (report, November 8) says this is a matter for political decision. The University Grants Committee cannot so neatly sidestep responsibility when the committee is setting the tone for the discussions.

The Secretary of State initiated the debate. He asked for a realistic internal assessment of how standards can be maintained and enhanced. Most universities would agree that such an assessment will depend on the degree of planning they are able to do.

Sir Keith Joseph has pre-empted that planning by suggesting that level funding may not be maintained and universities may have to face a 2 per cent per annum cut in resources over the next five years and a continuous 1 per cent drop for five years after that. In other words, the instability which has bedevilled the university sector over the last five years and which has made sensible planning impossible may continue for the next 10 years and possibly beyond.

Sir Keith's proposition is based on two extremely dubious assumptions. The first is that if the Government withdraws public support for the universities substantial funds will be available from industry, or even from private individuals, to restore the balance. This ignores both the efforts already made by universities to attract such funds, and the unwillingness of private industry to commit capital to long-term projects. How funds for research in the arts, humanities or social sciences will be provided is left in considerable doubt.

Teenage betting

From the Director General of the Betting Office Licensees Association Limited. Sir, We share Dr Moran's view (November 10) that young people under the age of 18 should not be permitted to enter licensed betting offices for the purpose of placing bets. But we fail to see how the Betting Gaming and Lotteries (Amendment) Bill, which will have its Second Reading tomorrow, has any bearing on this situation.

The proposed legislation would, as Dr Moran has said, enable 16 and 17 year olds to be employed in licensed betting offices. This, in our view, would be a valuable contribution to tackling a problem of teenage unemployment and would, we submit, have no influence at all on the current restriction on betting by the under 18s.

There has never been any age restriction on employees in credit betting offices and Dr Moran will be pleased to learn that youngsters under the age of 18 have regularly been employed in such establishments without problems of any kind being encountered.

It should be fully understood that the proposed legislation is a general enabling Bill, and that before any specific order is made, the Secretary of State would have to make provision by order which would be subject to veto in either House.

If, for example, television was introduced and found to be unsuitable it could just as easily be removed again.

In the early days of betting offices, the restrictions which are still with us now probably were justified. Since then, however, the betting industry has come of age and has shown its willingness and ability to accept its social responsibilities. Today's Bill is no more than recognition of this.

Yours faithfully, TOM KELLY, Director General, Betting Office Licensees Association Limited, Devonshire House, 1 Devonshire Street, W1, November 10.

Planning for leisure

From Mr G. F. C. Rogers. Sir, I write to support Sir Ian Hunter's proposal (October 24) for a Council for Amateur Activities and I have a suggestion for such a council's agenda. Citizens with intellectual interests are well provided with public libraries and those with sporting interests with public sports centres, swimming baths and playing fields. Theatres and arts centres are available for those with artistic leanings. There is no provision for those whose pleasure lies in handicraft, so why not public handicraft centres?

All city councils possess buildings lying idle: disused warehouses and schools, for example. They could be furnished with wood-working machinery and small metal-working machine tools so that, for a small fee, amateur craftsmen can have the use of equipment that is too large for the ordinary home workshop.

For safety reasons it would be necessary for users to have a certificate of competence. Local colleges of technology could provide suitable tests and issue the necessary certificates. The prospect of being able to use such a facility might encourage some young people to attend craft courses and thereby swell the intake of the colleges. Such courses would be a useful adjunct to youth training schemes for unemployed school leavers.

It would be necessary to have two or three skilled craftsmen in

The second is the assumption that a substantial drop in the 18-year-old population in the early 1990s will, with only slight modifications, be reflected in the number of qualified entrants to higher education in the same period.

Predictions on the increasing aspirations of women, on the need for continuing education and on social class change, are virtually ignored yet will almost certainly lead to a demand for places that the Department of Education and Science will have no plans to meet. No consideration has been given to the need for skilled graduate manpower to meet the demands of an increasingly technological society.

Both the Committee of Vice-Chancellors and Principals and the Association of University Teachers have produced alternative figures which cast serious doubts on the Department of Education and Science assumptions, yet the framework for debate about the future has been set in the context of the DES assumption of a substantial drop in students.

This debate should really be about whether changes in population should be used by Government merely for the rationalisation of existing resources, or should be seen as a means of improving opportunity for a much wider proportion of the population.

If the new Chairman of the University Grants Committee can grasp that nettle and translate it into positive action he will indeed be providing a service to the country. Yours faithfully, DIANA WARWICK, General Secretary, Association of University Teachers, United House, 1 Pembroke Road, W11, November 9.

From the Reverend R. G. Dennis. Sir, In all the talk about the practicality of option G, to say nothing of the Very Rev Richard Eyre's "authentic" resurrections from previous deaths, nothing seems to have been said on behalf of those who, being familiar with the plain meaning of words, have accepted that a vow made to another in the presence of God and of witnesses, "ill death us do part" means what it says.

I have in my ministry met some such who, having been deserted by a spouse, or having found themselves in a situation of irretrievable breakdown of marriage, have regarded their subsequent state as an occasion to take up the Cross, which is all that Jesus offers us in this world.

I have no desire to limit the mercy of God and still less the freedom of the parochial clergy. However, in the pastoral care of those whose marriages have failed and who wish to take an action which the *prima facie* nature of their previous vows precludes, some consideration should be given to the witness of those who, often at great personal cost, live as though they believe the words of the marriage service and, a fortiori, the New Testament to be an expression of God's will. Yours faithfully, RICHARD G. DENNIS, The Rectory, 93 Pixmore Way, Leitchworth, Hertfordshire, November 5.

Life of housing

From Mr Lucas Mellinger. Sir, Lord Raglan (November 8) is right in claiming modern houses have a shorter life span than many structures erected centuries ago. But today our lifestyle is changing so rapidly that the layout rather than the fabric will determine the survival of a building.

Nothing would be gained by designing for eternity when (as some suggest of the NatWest tower) the usefulness of the building has been superseded before it is completed. Yours faithfully, LUCAS MELLINGER, 4 Kew Green, Richmond, Surrey, November 8.

Quietus for the Guy

From Mr Laurence Cotterell. Sir, The Reverend F. H. Mountney (November 9) need not be too concerned about the feelings of Roman Catholics, numbers of whom have long burned images of Guy Fawkes on November 5 in the old spirit of placing a hero on the funeral pyre, possibly believing that the man had gone to Parliament with better intentions than many who enter there.

Yours faithfully, LAURENCE COTTERELL, 121 St Paul's Wood Hill, St Paul's Cray, Kent, November 9.

into large accumulations of owner occupied land, in a way which cannot be justified by any rational economic criteria. The whole process has been illogical.

The agricultural industry in this country now faces increasing competition. A suitable structure of ownership and occupation, which is designed to help contain fixed costs is essential for the next few decades, if we are to retain our share of European production.

Hopefully the new rent arbitration formula proposed by the Bill may have the effect of restraining the level of rent increases. If this happens the value of tenanted land will continue to fall. It is essential that it should be accompanied by measures designed to reduce vacant possession premia, however, otherwise no landowner will let. A reduction in fiscal reliefs for private persons occupying large amounts of land may be sufficient to achieve this, but statutory limits to occupation by financial institutions may be required.

Yours faithfully, OSCAR COLBURN, Crickley Barrow, Northleach, Near Cheltenham, Gloucestershire, November 3.

From Professor H. H. Huxley. Sir, "The American marine base... came under sustained fire last night from 60 millimetre mortars" (*The Times*, page 1, November 8). An economical breakthrough in genetic engineering? Yours sincerely, H. H. HUXLEY, 12 Derwent Close, Cambridge, November 8.

Church remarriage of divorcees

From the Reverend Nick Earle. Sir, Of course the Reverend Giles Hunt (November 9) is right; the rewriting of the marriage service is now an urgent priority for the Church of England. And it is not only the vows which must go; so must the imperative: "Those whom God hath joined together let no man put asunder".

We have got ourselves into our present muddle, I suggest, for two main reasons. First, we have allowed, if not encouraged, those of all persuasions or none to take vows without any prior assessment either of their understanding of the words they use or of their capacity for giving effect to them.

Secondly, we have rejected all consideration of the possibilities inherent in a declaration of nullity, presumably for fear of conflict with the courts. Yet there must be thousands upon thousands of cases in which there has been no true joining together of the parties, despite their vows. If only because either or both have not really foreseen the parental home.

Sooner or later a limit must be set to the endeavour to be all things to all men, compassionate though that policy may appear to be. For the sake of those who are inhibited from embarking on a parochial ministry by what appears to them to be an invitation to hypocrisy I believe it should be sooner.

Yours faithfully, NICK EARLE, Headmaster's House, Bromsgrove School, Worcestershire, November 9.

From the Reverend R. G. Dennis. Sir, In all the talk about the practicality of option G, to say nothing of the Very Rev Richard Eyre's "authentic" resurrections from previous deaths, nothing seems to have been said on behalf of those who, being familiar with the plain meaning of words, have accepted that a vow made to another in the presence of God and of witnesses, "ill death us do part" means what it says.

I have in my ministry met some such who, having been deserted by a spouse, or having found themselves in a situation of irretrievable breakdown of marriage, have regarded their subsequent state as an occasion to take up the Cross, which is all that Jesus offers us in this world.

I have no desire to limit the mercy of God and still less the freedom of the parochial clergy. However, in the pastoral care of those whose marriages have failed and who wish to take an action which the *prima facie* nature of their previous vows precludes, some consideration should be given to the witness of those who, often at great personal cost, live as though they believe the words of the marriage service and, a fortiori, the New Testament to be an expression of God's will. Yours faithfully, RICHARD G. DENNIS, The Rectory, 93 Pixmore Way, Leitchworth, Hertfordshire, November 5.

Late conversion

From Mrs M. Lomas. Sir, I hope it is no reflexion on the standard of our aircraft industry that only now has Mr Burrell come forward with the technique of centigrade/Fahrenheit conversion (*The Times*, November 8), which was devised more than 20 years ago by Mr Michael Webster.

Mr Webster was an Oxford man, a Milton scholar with an unusual gift for mathematical conundrums and gold ornamental restoration. He invented the system to enable his expatriate colleagues in the University of Helsinki to establish quickly just how much they were suffering from the extremes of that climate and even the most innumerate of us learned to use it effectively while waiting at tram stops in sub-zero (centigrade) temperatures.

It is outrageous to suggest that this method should be called Burrell's Law. Its proper title clearly is Webster's Law. Yours faithfully, MARY LOMAS, Senior Common Room, Goldsmiths' College, New Cross, SE14, November 8.

Mortal danger

From Professor H. H. Huxley. Sir, "The American marine base... came under sustained fire last night from 60 millimetre mortars" (*The Times*, page 1, November 8). An economical breakthrough in genetic engineering? Yours sincerely, H. H. HUXLEY, 12 Derwent Close, Cambridge, November 8.

THE ARTS

Cinema

Bold display of British vitality and variety

London Film Festival
National Film Theatre
(from November 17)

Monkey Grip (18)
Cinecenta, Panton Street

Bloody Kids (15)
ICA Cinema

The London Film Festival is upon us again, in its twenty-seventh edition. This year the bag is as mixed as ever, and very much larger. With 160 titles, mostly made in a 12-month period, common sense and the law of averages would indicate that many are better avoided; but the advance information in the festival brochure rarely gives the game away. Practically all the films are described in such superlatives ("stunning", "devastating", "tough, unswerving and imbued with a recognizable truth", "stunning minimalist images") that a hint of qualification ("if the soigné visual style seems sometimes over-determined") is positively damning. In this context the description of a film as "a fascinating experiment which audiences will judge differently depending on expectations and taste" is an ominous caveat. It is hard, too, to know what to make of Marguerite Duras without the *longueurs*.

Apart from learning the art of reading between the lines, intending patrons can only follow their instincts and such pointers as we critics can give them (though the festival brochure is at pains to warn the reader against believing "naïve" and "surprised" British critics). If the matter of selection is difficult, though, Londoners should not be too put off by the legendary difficulty of getting seats for the event. As usual this year only two dozen of the shows were sold out, and a number of these were films like Henry Jaglom's eccentric comedy *Carrie*, *Shine a Light*, *Cherry Picked*, the Hitchcock revival *Rear Window* and *Verigo*. John Landis's *Trading Places*, Tony Palmer's *Wagner and Jean-Luc Godard's Prénom*, *Carmen*, all of which (just because their audience potential is apparent) will open in London soon.

The sell-outs tend to be on the strength of names (Gianni Amico's *Io*



Sinister and innocent: Richard Thomas as the boy in search of attention in *Bloody Kids*

con to non ci sto più, not in itself very successful, has probably sold its tickets because Bertolucci's name is attached to it as producer) and particularly lurid brochure publicity. It was predictable that a "wonderfully camp and extremely bizarre musical" — a sexually exotic mix of transvestites, transsexuals, gays and other variants (Ross von Praunheim's *City of Lost Souls*) or "a celebration of the male form, of celebration of gayness" (Eric de Kuyper's *Casta Diva*) could not fail to find their public.

It is gratifying, though, that new British films like Richard Eyre's comedy *Loose Connections*, from a screenplay by Maggie Brooks, and Gavin Millar's *The Weather in the Streets*, adapted from Rosamund Lehmann, have also attracted sell-out audiences. This year's festival does above all demonstrate the vitality, variety and general high morale of British film-making since the new relationship with television consolidated by Channel 4. Like *The Weather in the Streets*, Giles Foster's *The Aerodrome* and Desmond Davis's *The Country Girls* are both literary adaptations (respectively from Rex Warner and Edna O'Brien, who also wrote the screenplay); but a notable

feature of the new British feature films is reliance on original screenplays: Nick Darke's for Giles Foster's *Farmers Arms*, Ian McEwan's for Derek Banham's *Last Day of Summer*, David Hare's for Stephen Frears's *Saigon - Year of the Cat*. Undoubtedly one of the most intriguing prospects of the festival however is John Schlesinger's *An Englishman Abroad*, with a script by Alan Bennett, based on Coral Browne's recollections of meeting Guy Burgess during an exchange theatrical tour in Moscow. Miss Browne plays herself; Alan Bennett is Burgess.

Mike Leigh's *Meantime*, developed through his usual improvisational techniques, is his blackest comedy so far. It is the portrait of an awful East End family — father and both sons unemployed and mother the slave of bingo and the washing machine — whose council flat is a rat-trap where they have nothing to do but nag and gnaw one another.

The festival also provides evidence of the rise of a genuine Irish cinema; and Donald Taylor's *Black at the Picture Palace* — Liam O'Leary is an enduring portrait of a notable man who has battled for half a century for a national tradition in films.

European cinema has not been strong this year either in East or West. A quick short-list of festival programmes still available would include Raul Ruiz's ancient mariner's tale, *Les Trois Couronnes du matelot*; Claude Goretta's exposé of the calm propriety of a Swiss village, *The Death of Mario Ricci*; Pál Sándor's equivocal panorama of Hungary, 1956, *Daniel Takes a Train*; and (if your taste runs that way) Alexander Kluge's philosophical essay *The Power of the Emotions*.

I will be commenting later on other aspects of the festival, including this year's revivals of silent films with new orchestral accompaniments, *Broken Blossoms* and *The Wind*, presented as a special tribute to Lillian Gish, who will be present.

One quirk of the festival is to rule any film under 50 minutes a short, and relegate it to a footnote in the brochure. Hence a notable small treasure and the auspicious debut of a British director could easily be overlooked, since Ian Seiler's *Over Germany* runs only 47 minutes. Seiler started as an assistant to Bill Douglas, and there is a sympathy of style that suggests (taking into account Bill Forsyth too) that there may be a

particular Scottish sensibility. Like Douglas and Forsyth, Seiler works in small, seemingly fragmented impressions, silences, looks, ordinary sounds, which are nevertheless connected with poetic compression.

The film is an autobiographical recollection of the film-maker's first trip to Germany as a child, forewarned only by war comics about the Nazis, to visit his Jewish grandmother. The old lady is kind but secretive; the stolid little boy is bewildered, uncomprehending, caught up in his own daydreams; the encounter is brief and hardly consequential. Yet afterwards we are left with a haunting sense of the tragic decade in Germany that ended before the child was born.

Of this week's new releases, *Monkey Grip* is a lively feature debut for the Australian director Ken Cameron. As adapted from her own novel by Helen Garner, it is a vivid slice of Melbourne life, the erotic and sentimental adventures of a young woman on the fringes of a small-time Bohemia of pop artists, amateur actors and newspaper people. Nora (Noni Hazlehurst) moves from bedmate to bedmate with a yearning at the back of her mind for romantic love and some kind of permanence. Her vulnerable affections fix instead on Javo (Colin Friels), a recidivist junkie, with all the schizophrenia of that malady.

These people of mature years living like teenagers, in their messy pads and emotional impermanence, might simply be irritating, but Cameron and his actors redeem them with their own affection and a humour which descends them only in the torrid love scenes with even more torrid piano accompaniment.

The ICA is giving a big-screen airing to Stephen Frears's *Bloody Kids*. Two or three years on, it tends to show how far television film-making has come: neatly written (by Stephen Poliakoff) and deftly, feelingly directed as it is, there is still the unmistakable made-for-television look. Largely this lies in the small scope and artifice of the story, with its metaphor of the corruption of our urban deserts. An 11-year-old boy, with both the skill and instinct for manipulation, stages an incident — he gets a friend to fake a football match stabbing — to gain from police and hospital the attention he lacks at home (the police never do manage to find his parents). Richard Thomas brings to the part of the boy a quality that is both sinister and innocent.

David Robinson

Television

Sad counterpoints

The portrait of Dylan Thomas in *I Sing to You Strangers*, on BBC2 last night, was meant to give us a picture of the poet — the thirtieth anniversary of whose death the programme marked — other than that of an inspired and irresponsible drunkard. The producer and writer, John Ormond, a fellow townsman of Thomas, obviously thought this view inaccurate and in his support brought forth René Cutforth, the composer Daniel Jones and Elisabeth Lutyens, the painter Alfred Jones, Thomas's wife Caitlin and daughter Aeronwy, and the writers Nicolette Devas (his sister-in-law) and Dan Davin.

Altogether, I did not think they made it. Caitlin, who appears in one of tonight's two programmes on Thomas, testified to their violent rows and rapturous reconciliations. Miss Lutyens confirmed these but said it was "bloody hell", adding that she did not mind conjugal rows but advised all to "keep away from conjugal reconciliations". Caitlin said

that even now she felt disapproving of his weaknesses and that he was a "professional charm-boy and I despised that". He had wanted to die before he was 40, she said, and she could not blame him.

Mr Davin thought him doom-laden. Aeronwy recalled how he travelled separately from the family on trains and read Agatha Christie. Mr Jones said — though one can scarcely credit it — that there was still an unknown Dylan Thomas, and Mr Cutforth said that Thomas did not have much of a capacity for drink. Obviously, sadly, it did not stop him trying.

Arguing over Thomas, debating whether he earned his plot in Poets' Corner, is almost an industry. I do not think this programme added to our knowledge but it did emphasize the aridity of the debate, to which the rolling resonance of the poet reading his own verse added a sad counterpoint.

Dennis Hackett

Caroline Moorehead meets Nicholas Gage, who achieves a life's ambition in his new book, *Eleni*



A weapon for the emotions

On August 28, 1948, a group of Greek Communist guerrillas led 13 prisoners into the mountains just below the Albanian border. One of the five from the village of Lia was Eleni Gatzoyianni, the "Amerikana", wife of a Greek settled in America, and a mother of five children. She had been tortured. The prisoners were shot, and their bodies covered with rocks. Eleni was 41.

The nine-year-old boy, her only son, waiting for her then from behind the safety of the nationalist lines, is now a middle-aged man, a short, self-contained figure with brown hair, a square face and a neat blue blazer, who lives in America. He writes under the name of Nicholas Gage and is the author of *Eleni* (Collins, £9.95), a 470-page account of his mother's trial and the circumstances that led to her death. Anthony Howard reviewed it on last week's *Books* page and it is compulsive reading.

It took him six years to write, but it is in fact a life's work. "Everything I am and believe in is there", he explains. "It is the book I became a writer to write. When I was 13 I won first prize for an essay about Greece. I knew then I could write and that my future was solved. I had some kind of weapon to deal with my emotions. To write this book became my professional and personal life's goal."

The success of *Eleni* in America has been spectacular. Book of the Month Club choice, now in its fourth reprinting, and film rights sold for \$850,000. (The day an extract appeared in the *New York Times* Gage received 70 film offers.) "I never believed it could have such a popular impact", he says, "I wanted to capture the world of a Greek village with its mores, forces and rhythms which died in 1950, and to tell enough history to put the reader in the picture. But it's still about events that took place 35 years ago in a part of the world I thought no Westerner could identify with. To understand its success I tried to reduce the

book to what it's essentially about: it's a love story between a parent and a child. Perhaps it touched people because we have all been children or parents."

The father, Gatzoyianni, children eventually joined in America was Christos, a 59-year-old fruit merchant separated from his family by war for over nine years. He had never seen his only son. "There wasn't much money", says Gage. "My sisters went to work. I won scholarships to college and then to Columbia graduate school. America was a revelation to me. I loved the way you were judged on your work. It makes you feel free. People have asked me if I feel guilty about my mother. I feel responsible. I felt I had to do something with my life that was worthwhile because someone had paid for it with their own."

After Columbia, Gage joined the Associated Press, then the *Wall Street Journal*, before becoming an investigative reporter for the *New York Times*, making his name with articles on the Mafia and organized crime, developing the skills that he knew he would later use for his book. Once or twice he tried to start work on *Eleni*, but each time he retreated from the subject, unable to face what had happened to his mother. Instead, he wrote two novels, one a dystopian saga about Greek shipowners, the other about organized crime.

The opportunity to take on *Eleni* came in 1977 when the *New York Times* sent him to Athens. Even so, covering much of Eastern Europe left him too little time for the exhausting research he knew he needed to do before he could begin to write, and in 1980 he left the paper to embark on 400 extensive interviews, following his witnesses to the East European countries, where many had settled, or to the remotest corners of Greece. "Some of their stories ran to 70 pages. It was here my training as a reporter came in. I had learnt not to trust my own impressions or those of a single witness but to keep asking until the testimonies began to fit."

Irving Wardle

Dance Tipping the balance

Royal Ballet
Covent Garden

The Royal Ballet's new programme is oddly arranged, as if someone had set out to devise a mixture that nobody could like in its entirety. Yet I think that, short of one item and presented as a double bill, it might work rather well.

There are two works by Ashton, both using small casts and neither of them very long, but each with the distinctive mark of his imagination. *Monotones* is lyrical in mood, *Facade* comic; between them, they show the range of his genius. They need to be much better danced than at present, and with the dancers available there is no reason why they should not be, through some recasting and considerably more attention to detail in the rehearsal studio.

Those two, given with only a short pause, would make a satisfying second half to set against the dance drama of Nureyev's *The Tempest* which opens the programme. But Covent Garden custom decrees that there must be two full intervals to provide three quarters of an hour of drinking time, so, to avoid the impression that the intermissions exceed the following ballets in length, a little frippier party-piece has been added as make-weight, effectively wrecking the balance of the evening.

Some nights it is *Voices of Spring*, a bit of nonsense that Ashton cooked up originally to divert tired opera-goers in *Fledermaus*. Out of context it looks cheap and cheerful,

effectively performed by Merle Park and Wayne Eagling. On Tuesday we had instead the Covent Garden premiere of *Chanson*, a duet made by Derek Deane for a gala last year. The sight of Alessandra Ferri winding herself sensuously all over David Wall, both of them in shiny light-garments, is not exactly high art but will certainly divert tired ballerinas. Elizabeth Gale sings "Bailero" from Candeloube's *Chants d'Auvergne* while these goings-on are going on.

One disadvantage of that piece is that it prevents putting Ferri into *Monotones*, where her extraordinary pliancy when manipulated by partners might be ideal for the "Gymnopédies" section. Of the two women who properly coached, this week, Deirdre Eyden has better line and a better ear than Marguerite Porter, but is not flexible enough for some of the contortions.

There have been two different tríos in the "Gymnopédies" section, but only Ravenna Tucker really had the weight of it, with Karen Paisley looking capable of matching her if properly coached. The man's role needs a much more pure classicist than either Eagling or Ashley Page to do it justice.

Comment on *The Tempest* can wait until next week, and in *Facade* let me concentrate on welcoming the way Antoinette Sibley and Anthony Dowell dance the Tango. Merle Park and Michael Coleman, who also play those roles, underline every point as heavily as Queen Victoria did in her letters. Dowell makes a more plausible and funnier gigolo by being almost a gentleman, and Sibley looks dizzy and overwhelmed, as a real debutante might well be: forcing herself actually to enjoy her indignity. Delicious.

John Percival

Concert Nash Ensemble Bloomsbury Theatre

A double-decker sandwich is the substantial traveller's fare on this latest programme toured by the Arts Council. The outside is appealingly constituted of perky chamber pieces by Prokofiev and Janáček, both written in 1924: the former's reed and string quintet, the latter's *Youth*.

Next inside come two highly imaginative new works by younger English composers, but then the centre is occupied by a large slab of stodgy material known as Constant Lambert's *Piano Concerto*. Never mind: the rest should secure delight at the repeat performance in Oxford, Coventry and points north during the next week.

Of the new pieces, Simon Bainbridge's *Voicing* is already in the capable Nash Ensemble repertoire, which may explain the quickness and cool of this performance under Lionel Friend. It must also be fun to play. The music sets out from quivering iterations that grow to provoke more and more of the 11 players before subsiding. A lot of the machinery leads to a new phase of ostinato patterns, including a Tippet-like match for violins, flute and oboe; a second jerk unleashes a melody that snakes powerfully up and down and through the ensemble, then stops.

Colin Matthews's *The Great Journey* begins, oddly, in rather the same way, but soon goes off on tracks of its own, some of which remain conjectural. What we heard was the first half of a work that will eventually give the history of the Conquistador Cabeza de Vaca's extraordinary journey across North America.

The glimpse was tantalizing, but it is already clear that Matthews has answered the two outstanding problems of musical narrative. The text is audible, and was decisively pronounced by David Wilson-Johnson. Second, the music, although freely colourful, has a strong logic that seems to be bending the story into a sonata and telling more tales than the solo baritone knows.

Paul Griffiths

Theatre Blondel Old Vic

It is good to put that heading up again, and even better to report that the old place is now in marvellous condition. In the past we have always had to apologize for London's most loved theatre. The acoustics may have been perfect, but it was incurably cramped, peeling and dowdy, the penny-pinching ghost of Lillian Baylis still haunted the place.

Thanks to its Toronto Medical, that is no longer the case. The theatre has emerged from its dusty old carapace as a superb compromise between Victorian restoration and modern open-plan design. You can drink your way up from the Pit Bar to the Lillian Baylis Circle (no food, as yet); colour schemes and lighting contrasts encourage you to move about sociably in a welcoming atmosphere; above all there is space — in the foyer, on the wide stairways and between the auditorium seats.

As Andrew Lloyd Webber failed to acquire the building, it is ironic that it should reopen with the equivalent of a Rice-Lloyd Webber musical. With all respect to Stephen Oliver, who is Mr Rice's new composer, *Blondel* comes over as a sequel to *Joseph* and the *Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*: another anachronistic comedy, featuring a footloose young hero of low degree wandering through foreign parts and giving a helping hand to the great.

Blondel, should you have mistaken him for the man who fled eggs halfway across Niagara Falls, was a twelfth-century English minstrel about whom little was known until Mr Rice came along. It now appears that he attempted a Eurovision hit in praise of Richard I, and set off in pursuit of the crusading monarch when things became too hot at home under the beastly John; and, failing to make it to the Middle East, had the satisfaction of rescuing Richard from imprisonment by the Duke of Austria (another nasty piece of work). For those services Richard appoints him royal composer and sets him up in his own night club along with his faithful group, the Blondettes.



Paul Nicholas: husky

It is not much of a plot, and Blondel is not much of a hero. To start with, you are left uncertain of whether the unusual minstrel is supposed to be any good or not: his girl, Fiona (Sharon Lee Hill), thinks he ought to get a steady job. Unlike Joseph, Blondel meets with no great triumphs or calamities. The one thing that can be claimed for the story is that it never mentions chastity belts.

Where Mr Rice does score is in the lyrics which, as in *Joseph*, couple a charming narrative flow with an amazing line in ingenious rhymes. John, for instance, has a number commending himself as a subject for song, as "There is no rhyme for Richard/Which'd be suitable".

As for anachronisms, the appearance of French onion sellers and flamenco dancers to mark Blondel's place on the map take you back too insistently to *Joseph*, but they still exert great charm in Peter Jessel's production.

This is a singing show, with far greater general vocal competence than musicals normally command. Stephen Oliver is not exactly the dominant partner, but his score takes off from the Lloyd Webber manner and elaborates it into full-scale operatic diversity. Beginning with an unaccompanied quartet of close-harmony monks, it proceeds with divided duets, solos and full chorus, and characterization through music — especially for Richard, who brings out Mr Oliver's most majestic vein.

He can also write superb romantic tunes, such as the final duet for Paul Nicholas's husky Blondel and the reunited Fiona. Tim Goodchild's stage is alive with lightweight mobile properties that add the Dark Ages with sunlight. And, among the smaller parts, look out for David Burt as the villainously virile John and Chris Langham as the spindly assassin.

In response to my notice of *The Grass Widow*, Snoo Wilson justly takes me to task for listing astrology among the play's themes. My apologies.

Irving Wardle

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FINANCE AND INDUSTRY

Executive Editor Kenneth Fleet

A dogfight only British Airways can win

The Government really must do something soon to correct its unstructured and confused civil aviation policy if its plan for the orderly privatization of British Airways is to proceed smoothly.

There are already signs that street fighting might erupt between BA's hard-line, privatizing chairman, Lord King, and his equally determined counterpart at British Caledonian, Sir Adam Thomson. Sir Adam last week unveiled his magnanimous proposal to absorb a clutch of BA's international routes, and take over perhaps 10 of the state airlines' Boeing 747 jets. His aim, he said, was to make post-privatization competition more fair.

Lord King predictably lambasted Sir Adam for mounting a "smash and grab" raid on valuable assets and signalled total opposition, at this stage, to any carve up between the two airlines.

Mr Trevor Boud, BCal's group finance director, has followed up by telling the all-party Parliamentary aviation group of MPs that given the go-ahead to come up behind BA and snatch some of its routes and planes, it will raise part of the necessary cash by seeking a full quotation on the London Stock Exchange. As a piece of free enterprise swashbuckling, this is eye-catching.

A notation, Mr Boud suggested, would raise about £70m and the rest of the money BCal would need "mostly from the major banks".

The Caledonian Group, of which BCal is the principal trading company, is 99 per cent British owned. Its 5,522 shareholders include big institutions, led by investors in industry, formerly FFL. Of its £25m authorized share capital, £19.8m has been issued. Caledonian's book value at October 31 last year was £55m.

Mr Boud was supported in his parliamentary lobbying by Mr Alistair Pugh, the BCal managing director. He told the MPs that having off BA to the private sector in its present form would release unfair competition against other privately-owned airlines.

For good measure, he gave a warning

that any attempt by the Government to write off BA's huge debt burden (up to 80 per cent of the airline's £1,100m of debts would need to disappear to make privatization possible) would be even more unfair.

Sir Adam was confident last week that his plan would succeed. "Raising the £70m would not be a problem; we would probably have a rights issue. Stock market flotation would not be necessary initially".

But, apart from being unsure within the company about whether to go to the market, the BCal board party, as Lord King called them, looks like being repelled. Mr Nicholas Ridley, the Transport Secretary seems disinterested. Mrs Thatcher will undoubtedly back her hero Lord King and his vigorous efforts to have BA appear as a profitable enterprise in time for its Stock Exchange take-off.

The trouble with Sir Adam's plan is that if it succeeded it would replace a near-monopoly with a duopoly - and that would be just as unappealing to other airlines like British Midland Airways. Privatization of the consistently profitable British Airports Authority is probably three years away, and that is a pity. It would be a good starting point in settling the current row and provide the base for a new policy.



Sir Adam: lambasted for mounting a 'smash and grab' raid

Qualified success for Brazil

The latest attempt to put together a rescue package for debt-stricken Brazil now looks assured. On Wednesday the Brazilian congress passed a much modified wage law which was less radical than the International Monetary Fund wanted but all it is going to get.

The United States Congress has also cobbled together a compromise which should ensure passage of the \$8.4 billion American contribution to the IMF through the House of Representatives.

Fortified by these bits of commercial banks are now stumping up towards the \$6.5 billion of new money which would see Brazil through to the end of next year. Something over \$3 billion has already reached Morgan Guaranty, which is coordinating the loan.

British registered banks are expected to contribute about \$750m and the big four clearers have already committed about \$400m of this. The response from other European banks and many regional banks in the US has been unenthusiastic. Their attitude is that as it is the big international

banks who have run riot, they should find their own way out of the Brazilian debt jungle.

It is unlikely that more than four-fifths of the £6.5 billion commercial bank loan will have been committed by next week. However, the IMF will have to describe this as a success, realistically it cannot do otherwise.

Considering the problems American banks could face over non-performing loans and the internal economic problems in Brazil, the consequences of continuing to withhold finance would be far worse than bending the rules a little.

The IMF executive board should therefore approve the Brazilian package when it meets on November 18. Brazil would then be expected to repay the \$1.05 billion owed to the Bank for International Settlements, outstanding bridging finance from commercial banks and make a start on reducing arrears now put at over \$3.5 billion.

It is a beginning but the Brazilian problem promises to be around for a long time yet.

Shell gains £194m as dollar strengthens

By David Young
Energy Correspondent

The upturn in the American economy and the subsequent strengthening of the dollar has again played a significant part in increasing the profits of the Royal Dutch/Shell Group.

Results for the third quarter of the present financial year show that profits rose to £645m compared with £451m in the corresponding period last year. So far this year profits are £1,774m compared with £1,245m a year ago.

Shell, which now has cash reserves of £5.3 billion, said yesterday that there was a strong consumer-led recovery in the US with fragmented recovery elsewhere.

The oil industry as a whole echoes Shell's statement. The rush of companies to buy shares in the BP North Sea Forties field and the expectation of stable, if not lower oil prices, shows that the oil industry now expects industrialized economies to enter a period of sustained, if slow recovery.

Shell said yesterday: "with the overall growth in the free world forecast at around 3 per cent in real terms for 1985, it is expected that oil demand will marginally increase - the first annual increase since 1979".

Shell's results, which the company says have been helped by sterling's weakness against the dollar, were higher for the second successive quarter than brokers' estimates. The share price in London yesterday rose by 4p to 570p.

Ultramar, which yesterday announced an increase in its third quarter profits and confirmed that it had paid £30m for 1 per cent of the Forties field, said that it was continuing to look for new oil investments in the UK and the North Sea.

Ultramar, which originally bid for 2 per cent of the field, yesterday reported profits for the first nine months of this year up from £73.5m to £74.8m.

However, the company says that its recent Canadian marketing acquisition will not contribute profits until the last quarter of the year when Canadian home-heating oil sales rise.

Ultramar's chairman, Mr Arnold Lorbeer, said yesterday: "We share Shell's view that there will be an upturn in the economy in the coming months. We are looking for new investment in the North Sea and in the US".

The purchase of a share in the Forties field will give Ultramar a tax incentive to start a new exploration programme, and the company says it could buy shares in other North Sea fields if they come on the market.

Surplus up at Stock Exchange

By Wayne Lintott

The Stock Exchange has nearly doubled its surplus before tax to £6m in the half-year to September 28. Sir Nicholas Goodson reveals in his informal interim report, to be delivered to members next Tuesday.

Total income from subscriptions, general service charges, rents and interest rose to £23.7m from £18.9m the year before.

The Exchange has also sharply increased its much-discussed compensation fund from £1,684,000 to £2.1m. No claims were paid during the interim period and there are no substantial claims outstanding. In the year ago period £186,000 was paid out.

The number of new members increased to 205, up from 170 last time, raising total membership to 4,315. The number of member firms, meanwhile, dropped from 232 to 228.

The interim statement also confirms that the Stock Exchange Council's decision on dismantling commissions can be expected shortly.

Sir Nicholas said that the agreement with the Government in July brings to an end "the biggest single treat, and surely the most unnecessary, which the market (established in 1802) has faced in its long history".

At the same time £750m will be raised from the Central Bank Facility.

All these operations have posed an increasing problem of how to safeguard the mounting liquidity. The Bank's cash resources rose by \$4,000m last year to \$13,200m. The volume of trading to protect these assets was worth \$2.2 trillion. Before long, therefore, the Bank is likely to begin experimenting with financial futures markets.

Miller to lead Lloyd's with Lawrence deputy



Miller: "I am the prime minister..." (Photograph: Suresh Karadia)

By Andrew Cornelius

Mr Peter North Miller, a Lloyd's broker for 30 years was yesterday elected to succeed Sir Peter Green, chairman of the London insurance market.

Sir Peter, who has been in charge since 1980, stands down next month.

In accordance with the traditions of the 300-year-old market the 28-man ruling council met behind closed doors to decide the election of the chairman and two deputies for next year.

After the brief meeting the council announced that Mr Miller, aged 53, had won and that Mr Frank Barber, a former underwriter, and Mr Murray Lawrence, a favourite in the race for the chairmanship, would be elected deputy chairmen.

Within Lloyd's it was felt that Mr Lawrence had been passed over for the top job because he was not on the council during the past year of traumatic change.

Mr Miller was a member of the Committee of Lloyd's from 1977 to 1980 and again from last year and led the team which helped introduce the Lloyd's Act 1982, which replaced previous legislation dating from 1870.

Mr Miller is only the third broker to become chairman of Lloyd's. But yesterday he stressed that he is not the brokers' man for the chairmanship. "I am a Lloyd's man," he said.

From January 1 Mr Miller will resign all his positions of directorial or executive responsibility in Thos. R. Miller & Son (Insurance) the family group which he has chaired since 1971.

He said he would continue as a director of the Miller Underwriting Agency, which he believed necessary to keep in daily contact with the market.

Mr Miller said that he had three priorities after taking over the chairmanship: to complete the work of putting the Lloyd's Act 1982 into effect by a system of by-laws, regulations and codes; to face up to and resolve disciplinary problems; and to oversee the move to the new Lloyd's building due to be completed by the end of 1985.

Mr Miller said he was happy that the new self-regulatory mechanisms would prevent abuses within the market.

"We have the very difficult task of steering the right course between an excess of bureau-

cracy and sufficient regulation," he said.

Mr Miller stressed that he wanted the various investigations into alleged malpractice to be completed "as quickly as possible". Slow justice was not necessarily the best. The problems would be tackled with firmness, justice and resolve.

"Certain things have happened at Lloyd's which, if the allegations are true, are shameful things. That said, I view these matters in the context of our enormous commercial success, our contribution to the visible earnings and the 70,000 to 75,000 people we employ either directly or indirectly."

Mr Miller was keen to dispel the feeling that the appointment of Mr Ian Hay Davison as chief executive of Lloyd's had changed the chairman's job to that of a largely ambassadorial and ceremonial non-executive role.

"I am the prime minister and Mr Davison is head of the Civil Service," he said.

His family links with Lloyd's go back 100 years in an unbroken line to his great grandfather. Mr Miller, married with two sons and a daughter, joined the family firm in 1953 after qualifying as a solicitor.

Tecalemit offer raised after weak response

By Andrew Cornelius

Siebe Gorman, the safety products group, yesterday increased its offer to £15m to £18m its takeover offer for Tecalemit, the garage equipment manufacturer.

Siebe's final offer of three of its new ordinary shares or 99p cash for every 20 of Tecalemit's shares each Tecalemit share at 33.4p if the share offer is accepted or 49.5p in the cash deal.

Yesterday, Siebe Gorman said that the latest offer will lapse if it does not become unconditional by December 2.

The takeover has won acceptance from 8.63 per cent of Tecalemit's shareholders, a

level of acceptance described as "derisory" by Tecalemit. Siebe Gorman said yesterday that this was why its terms have been improved by 20 per cent if the share offer is accepted.

Tecalemit, meanwhile, is waiting for Siebe Gorman to produce a profits forecast for the year, even though the Siebe Gorman board has announced its intention to recommend an increased dividend of 9.45p net for the year to March 31, an increase of 11.2 per cent on last year.

Tecalemit has also reiterated that it sees no industrial logic in merging the two companies.

Early lift for Dow Jones

New York (Reuters). - Share prices remained higher in early trading on the New York Stock Exchange yesterday with both blue chip and secondary issues performing well.

The Dow Jones Industrial Average, which gained more than 17 points on Wednesday rose by nearly 5 points to about 1237. Overall, advancing issues outnumbered falling ones by about two to one. Volume was about 30 million shares.

Diamond Shamrock, an active issue, was down by 1½ to 22½. Standard Oil of Ohio fell 1½ to 48.

A T and T, a big gainer on Wednesday on heavy volume, was up another ¼ to 64¼ on volume of 1.3 million shares.

Pressure on the dollar

The dollar gave up ground against most leading currencies yesterday. Reports that US aircraft had been attacked over Lebanon helped the dollar off its low point. With fears over the Middle East generally subsiding, the dollar ended the day nearly 1½ pfennigs lower against the Deutschmark at DM 2.6585.

Sterling closed up 55 points at \$1.4905 against the dollar but its value against the basket of currencies was unchanged. Dealers said conditions were quiet ahead of today's Veterans Day holiday in the United States.

STOCK EXCHANGES

FT Index 720.6 down 1.2
FT 1000 82.55 up 0.29
FT All Share 449.97 up 1.85
Bargains 16,895
Datastream USM Leaders
Index 96.34 up 0.22
New York: Dow Jones
Index 9,244.24 down 52.86
Nikkei 225 23,495.49
Amsterdam 149.1 up 4.1
Sydney: AO Index 709 up 3
Frankfurt Commerzbank
Index 1016.1 up 12.7
Brussels: General Index
126.88 up 0.44
Paris: CAC Index 142.1 up 1.3
Zurich: SKA General 294.8 unchanged

CURRENCIES

LONDON CLOSE

Sterling
Index 83.5 unchanged
DM 2.6585 down 0.0025
FF 12.06 down 0.01
Yen 349.75 down 0.25
Dollar Index 127.5 down 0.4
DM 2.6585

NEW YORK LATEST

Sterling \$1.4900
Dollar DM 2.6595
INTERNATIONAL
ECU 0.571288
SORE 0.709622

INTEREST RATES

Domestic rates:
Bank base rates 9
Finance houses base rates 10
Discount market loans week
fixed 9½-9
3 month interbank 9½-9½
Euro-currency rates:
3 month dollar 9½-9½
3 month DM 6½-6½
3 month FF 13½-13½
US rates:
Bank prime rate 11.00
Fed funds 9½
Treasury long bond 10½-10½
ECGD Fixed Rate Sterling
Export Finance Scheme IV
Average reference rate for
interest period September 7 to
October 5, 1983 inclusive:
9.393 per cent.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Unilever papers stolen

Unilever, the Anglo-Dutch food and soap company, was forced yesterday to announce its third quarter figures and interim dividend five days early, after price-sensitive documents went missing during the burglary of a manager's home in Britain earlier this week.

The company, which did not identify the manager said there was no evidence of a market leak. It did not believe that the burglars were specifically after the confidential documents.

Group profits of LWT (Holdings), parent company of London Weekend Television, slumped by two-thirds in the 12 months to last July, largely due to the launch and running costs Channel 4. Trading profits dropped from £14m to £5.8m, but pre-tax profits of £5.3m were better than the stock market expected.

● The Secretary of State for Trade and Industry has announced he will not refer the proposed sale of some Dunlop Holdings European tyre plants to Japan's Sumitomo Rubber Industries for investigation by the Monopolies Commission.

● Britain's economy will grow by only 1.4 per cent a year between 1985 and 1988 after 2.7 per cent this year and 2 per cent next, the Henley Centre for Forecasting says in its latest *Economic Review*. The number of jobs will rise to 3.3 million by 1987, when inflation will average 9 per cent, it says.

● Britain's public and private sector steel output was more than 30 per cent higher last month than a year earlier, averaging 301,200 tonnes a week - well below the 337,600 tonnes a week average of October, 1981.

● Mr James McMillan was formerly joint general manager of the Bank of Scotland, not the Royal Bank of Scotland, as stated on November 8.

Interim profits jump at B & C Shipping

By Jonathan Clare

Exceptional profits from the sale of helicopters from the Bristol Helicopter Group's fleet helped British & Commonwealth Shipping more than double its half-year profits to £36.1m.

But the banking, shipping and air transport company, in which Lord Cazyer's Caledonia Investments has a 49 per cent stake, says full-year profits will be little different to last year's £36.8m after stripping out ship and aircraft sales.

Profits from the air transport division fell from £8.7m to £7.6m. Much of the fall is due to an exceptional currency loss incurred by aircraft leased by Air UK. However, Air UK, which returned to the black last year, remains profitable at the trading level.

British & Commonwealth
Half-year to 30.6.83
Pre-tax profit £36.1m (£16.4m)
Stated earnings 50.4p (24.8p)
Turnover £175.5m (£169.7m)
Net interim dividend 8p (7p)
Share price 850p, up 12p
Dividend payable 4.1.84

The helicopter sales follow the re-equipment of the Bristol fleet with Aerospatiale Super Puma aircraft and amounted to £16.3m.

Profits before the aircraft sales were up by £3.5m at £19.8m, largely from the Cayzer, Gartmore banking activities, aviation support and office equipment businesses. Investment income increased from £6.4m to £7.4m.

Associated company profits, largely from BCL, the container cargo shipping company, were down by £1.2m to £4.6m.

New borrowing schemes will help to control interest

World Bank set to cut loan rate

By Michael Prest

The World Bank will probably cut the interest rate on its loans to developing countries on January 1, Mr Eugene Rotberg, the Bank's treasurer and vice-president, said yesterday.

He said that several new borrowing instruments prepared by the Bank should help to hold the rate down. The present interest charge is 10.47 per cent.

New measures either about to be introduced or under active consideration include floating rate notes issues, a new instrument to be called the Central Bank Facility, more short term note issues, and using the financial futures markets to hedge the Bank's enormous and growing liability. More currency swaps will also be used.

The World Bank is one of the biggest borrowers on financial markets and the scale of its

operations is awesome. In its last fiscal year, to the end of June, it raised \$10,300m (£6,931m) and this figure will be higher this year. No less than \$3,400m of fixed and medium term debt has been acquired this year up to last week and a further \$500m has been raised from discount notes in the United States.

Critics of the Bank have suggested that it has been forced to adopt more and more complex alternatives to the Euromarket as its borrowings have grown. At the beginning of this month the Bank raised \$100m from a 20-year "bullet" issue.

But Mr Rotberg said that the new measures exploit the Bank's comparative advantage as one of the world's most highly-rated credits. It had to achieve the mix of debt and currencies which would offer

the lowest and least volatile interest rates to its borrowers.

The floating rate notes, which will be the first issued by the Bank, will initially be used sparingly. The Bank envisages raising only around \$5m in the first few months, but the crucial feature will be tying the interest rate to the United States Treasury Bill rate rather than to Libor.

At the same time \$750m will be raised from the Central Bank Facility.

All these operations have posed an increasing problem of how to safeguard the mounting liquidity. The Bank's cash resources rose by \$4,000m last year to \$13,200m. The volume of trading to protect these assets was worth \$2.2 trillion. Before long, therefore, the Bank is likely to begin experimenting with financial futures markets.

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● More than 345,000 new shares were issued during this last financial year. Assets at 31st August totalled £857.7 million.

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Name (CAPITALS PLEASE)

Address

ROLINCO
The Growth Trust
of the Robeco Group

INVESTORS' NOTEBOOK ● edited by Michael Prest

Starveley Industries
Half-year to 1.10.83.
Pretax profit £2m (£1.5m).
Turnover £78.4m (£71.2m).
Net interim dividend 4.5p (same).

John Beales Associated
Half-year to 19.9.83.
Pretax profit £220,000 (£217,000)
Stated earnings 5.7p (5.6p).
Turnover £6.6m (£6.1m).
Net interim dividend 1.15p (1p).

Interim unaudited results for the half year ended 30th September, 1983

The results for the first half year reflect rapidly increasing activity in the merchant bank, Henry Ansbacher & Co. Limited, which has absorbed the costs involved in setting up two international offices and has still performed above expectations. Corporate finance income in particular has been strong, and expansion looks set to continue in the second half year. Insurance broking, on the other hand, is still suffering, as is Shipbroking, from a very depressed marine market, which has a long way to recover before it returns to normal conditions. Trust management has performed steadily, but Metal broking has had to absorb the costs of moving to new offices. Central costs have been inflated by termination payments and the cost of unused premises as operating divisions have moved.

Henry Ansbacher Holdings PLC
One Noble Street, London EC2V 7JH

One Noble Street, London EC2V 7JH

The reduced tax charge of £3.5m against £4.2m after the refurbishment costs of £820,000 against £155,000 gives a small increase in attributable profits at £4.1m.

Value
 Half-year to 30.9.83
 Pretax profit £1.4m (£772,000)
 Stated earnings 8.06p (3.92p)
 Turnover £34m (24.5m)
 Net interim/dividend 1.074p
 (0.876p)
 Share price 134p, down 1p Yield
 3.7%

More worrying is the dividend. While the City expected the present year to be flat, analysts had hoped for an increase in the interim dividend as a mark of better times just round the corner.

Great Portland received income during last year from its rights issue, cash invested in gilts. These resources have now been ploughed into the development portfolio so the short-term return will be lower. The City has marked down expectations for the present year and now expects the company to produce full year profits a little down on last time's £15.8m. But results in 1985 and 1986 are expected to show the benefits of the present development programme.

Great Portland's undoubted strength lies in its conservatism. The valuation due at the end of the year is unlikely to show another write-down and, indeed, is likely to show a small surplus. The portfolio is largely confined to London offices - about 2.5m sq ft of space which has been either built or refurbished in the last 15 years.

The balance sheet remains sound with long-term borrowing of only £22m against shareholders' funds of £261m. Liquid resources of £28m compare with outstanding commitments of £32m.

Great Portland Estates
Half-year to 30.9.83
Net revenue £7.5m (£8.2m)
Stated earnings 2.9p (2.9p)
Gross rental income £8.5m (£8m)
Net interim dividend 1p (1p)
Share price 130p, down 4p
Dividend payable 26.1.84

The last set of full-year results from Great Portland Estates caused more than a little trepidation among the City property specialists when it showed a write-down in the value of the property portfolio. The present set of interim figures has done little to reassure the blue chip property group's followers. They show a reduction in pretax revenue and a maintained dividend. But the City's reaction to the bottom line is unfair: Great Portland is a conservative company and has taken the cost of refurbishing

[illegible]

ABN Bank	9%
Barclays	9%
BCCI	9%
Credit Savings	10 1/2%
Consolidated Crds	9%
Continental Trust	9%
C. Hoare & Co	9%
Lloyds Bank	9%
Midland Bank	9%
Nat Westminster	9%
TSB	9%
Williams & Glyn's	9%

1982/83	1981/82	1980/81	1979/80	1978/79	1977/78	1976/77	1975/76	1974/75	1973/74	1972/73	1971/72	1970/71	1969/70	1968/69	1967/68	1966/67	1965/66	1964/65	1963/64	1962/63	1961/62	1960/61	1959/60	1958/59	1957/58	1956/57	1955/56	1954/55	1953/54	1952/53	1951/52	1950/51	1949/50	1948/49	1947/48	1946/47	1945/46	1944/45	1943/44	1942/43	1941/42	1940/41	1939/40	1938/39	1937/38	1936/37	1935/36	1934/35	1933/34	1932/33	1931/32	1930/31	1929/30	1928/29	1927/28	1926/27	1925/26	1924/25	1923/24	1922/23	1921/22	1920/21	1919/20	1918/19	1917/18	1916/17	1915/16	1914/15	1913/14	1912/13	1911/12	1910/11	1909/10	1908/09	1907/08	1906/07	1905/06	1904/05	1903/04	1902/03	1901/02	1900/01	1899/00	1898/99	1897/98	1896/97	1895/96	1894/95	1893/94	1892/93	1891/92	1890/91	1889/90	1888/89	1887/88	1886/87	1885/86	1884/85	1883/84	1882/83	1881/82	1880/81	1879/80	1878/79	1877/78	1876/77	1875/76	1874/75	1873/74	1872/73	1871/72	1870/71	1869/70	1868/69	1867/68	1866/67	1865/66	1864/65	1863/64	1862/63	1861/62	1860/61	1859/60	1858/59	1857/58	1856/57	1855/56	1854/55	1853/54	1852/53	1851/52	1850/51	1849/50	1848/49	1847/48	1846/47	1845/46	1844/45	1843/44	1842/43	1841/42	1840/41	1839/40	1838/39	1837/38	1836/37	1835/36	1834/35	1833/34	1832/33	1831/32	1830/31	1829/30	1828/29	1827/28	1826/27	1825/26	1824/25	1823/24	1822/23	1821/22	1820/21	1819/20	1818/19	1817/18	1816/17	1815/16	1814/15	1813/14	1812/13	1811/12	1810/11	1809/10	1808/09	1807/08	1806/07	1805/06	1804/05	1803/04	1802/03	1801/02	1800/01	1799/00	1798/99	1797/98	1796/97	1795/96	1794/95	1793/94	1792/93	1791/92	1790/91	1789/90	1788/89	1787/88	1786/87	1785/86	1784/85	1783/84	1782/83	1781/82	1780/81	1779/80	1778/79	1777/78	1776/77	1775/76	1774/75	1773/74	1772/73	1771/72	1770/71	1769/70	1768/69	1767/68	1766/67	1765/66	1764/65	1763/64	1762/63	1761/62	1760/61	1759/60	1758/59	1757/58	1756/57	1755/56	1754/55	1753/54	1752/53	1751/52	1750/51	1749/50	1748/49	1747/48	1746/47	1745/46	1744/45	1743/44	1742/43	1741/42	1740/41	1739/40	1738/39	1737/38	1736/37	1735/36	1734/35	1733/34	1732/33	1731/32	1730/31	1729/30	1728/29	1727/28	1726/27	1725/26	1724/25	1723/24	1722/23	1721/22	1720/21	1719/20	1718/19	1717/18	1716/17	1715/16	1714/15	1713/14	1712/13	1711/12	1710/11	1709/10	1708/09	1707/08	1706/07	1705/06	1704/05	1703/04	1702/03	1701/02	1700/01	1699/00	1698/99	1697/98	1696/97	1695/96	1694/95	1693/94	1692/93	1691/92	1690/91	1689/90	1688/89	1687/88	1686/87	1685/86	1684/85	1683/84	1682/83	1681/82	1680/81	1679/80	1678/79	1677/78	1676/77	1675/76	1674/75	1673/74	1672/73	1671/72	1670/71	1669/70	1668/69	1667/68	1666/67	1665/66	1664/65	1663/64	1662/63	1661/62	1660/61	1659/60	1658/59	1657/58	1656/57	1655/56	1654/55	1653/54	1652/53	1651/52	1650/51	1649/50	1648/49	1647/48	1646/47	1645/46	1644/45	1643/44	1642/43	1641/42	1640/41	1639/40	1638/39	1637/38	1636/37	1635/36	1634/35	1633/34	1632/33	1631/32	1630/31	1629/30	1628/29	1627/28	1626/27	1625/26	1624/25	1623/24	1622/23	1621/22	1620/21	1619/20	1618/19	1617/18	1616/17	1615/16	1614/15	1613/14	1612/13	1611/12	1610/11	1609/10	1608/09	1607/08	1606/07	1605/06	1604/05	1603/04	1602/03	1601/02	1600/01	1599/00	1598/99	1597/98	1596/97	1595/96	1594/95	1593/94	1592/93	1591/92	1590/91	1589/90	1588/89	1587/88	1586/87	1585/86	1584/85	1583/84	1582/83	1581/82	1580/81	1579/80	1578/79	1577/78	1576/77	1575/76	1574/75	1573/74	1572/73	1571/72	1570/71	1569/70	1568/69	1567/68	1566/67	1565/66	1564/65	1563/64	1562/63	1561/62	1560/61	1559/60	1558/59	1557/58	1556/57	1555/56	1554/55	1553/54	1552/53	1551/52	1550/51	1549/50	1548/49	1547/48	1546/47	1545/46	1544/45	1543/44	1542/43	1541/42	1540/41	1539/40	1538/39	1537/38	1536/37	1535/36	1534/35	1533/34	1532/33	1531/32	1530/31	1529/30	1528/29	1527/28	1526/27	1525/26	1524/25	1523/24	1522/23	1521/22	1520/21	1519/20	1518/19	1517/18	1516/17	1515/16	1514/15	1513/14	1512/13	1511/12	1510/11	1509/10	1508/09	1507/08	1506/07	1505/06	1504/05	1503/04	1502/03	1501/02	1500/01	1499/00	1498/99	1497/98	1496/97	1495/96	1494/95	1493/94	1492/93	1491/92	1490/91	1489/90	1488/89	1487/88	1486/87	1485/86	1484/85	1483/84	1482/83	1481/82	1480/81	1479/80	1478/79	1477/78	1476/77	1475/76	1474/75	1473/74	1472/73	1471/72	1470/71	1469/70	1468/69	1467/68	1466/67	1465/66	1464/65	1463/64	1462/63	1461/62	1460/61	1459/60	1458/59	1457/58	1456/57	1455/56	1454/55	1453/54	1452/53	1451/52	1450/51	1449/50	1448/49	1447/48	1446/47	1445/46	1444/45	1443/44	1442/43	1441/42	1440/41	1439/40	1438/39	1437/38	1436/37	1435/36	1434/35	1433/34	1432/33	1431/32	1430/31	1429/30	1428/29	1427/28	1426/27	1425/26	1424/25	1423/24	1422/23	1421/22	1420/21	1419/20	1418/19	1417/18	1416/17	1415/16	1414/15	1413/14	1412/13	1411/12	1410/11	1409/10	1408/09	1407/08	1406/07	1405/06	1404/05	1403/04	1402/03	1401/02	1400/01	1399/00	1398/99	1397/98	1396/97	1395/96	1394/95	1393/94	1392/93	1391/92	1390/91	1389/90	1388/89	1387/88	1386/87	1385/86	1384/85	1383/84	1382/83	1381/82	1380/81	1379/80	1378/79	1377/78	1376/77	1375/76	1374/75	1373/74	1372/73	1371/72	1370/71	1369/70	1368/69	1367/68	1366/67	1365/66	1364/65	1363/64	1362/63	1361/62	1360/61	1359/60	1358/59	1357/58	1356/57	1355/56	1354/55	1353/54	1352/53	1351/52	1350/51	1349/50	1348/49	1347/48	1346/47	1345/46	1344/45	1343/44	1342/43	1341/42	1340/41	1339/40	1338/39	1337/38	1336/37	1335/36	1334/35	1333/34	1332/33	1331/32	1330/31	1329/30	1328/29	1327/28	1326/27	1325/26	1324/25	1323/24	1322/23	1321/22	1320/21	1319/20	1318/19	1317/18	1316/17	1315/16	1314/15	1313/14	1312/13	1311/12	1310/11	1309/10	1308/09	1307/08	1306/07	1305/06	1304/05	1303/04	1302/03	1301/02	1300/01	1299/00	1298/99	1297/98	1296/97	1295/96	1294/95	1293/94	1292/93	1291/92	1290/91	1289/90	1288/89	1287/88	1286/87	1285/86	1284/85	1283/84	1282/83	1281/82	1280/81	1279/80	1278/79	1277/78	1276/77	1275/76	1274/75	1273/74	1272/73	1271/72	1270/71	1269/70	1268/69	1267/68	1266/67	1265/66	1264/65	1263/64	1262/63	1261/62	1260/61	1259/60	1258/59	1257/58	1256/57	1255/56	1254/55	1253/54	1252/53	1251/52	1250/51	1249/50	1248/49	1247/48	1246/47	1245/46	1244/45	1243/44	1242/43	1241/42	1240/41	1239/40	1238/39	1237/38	1236/37	1235/36	1234/35	1233/34	1232/33	1231/32	1230/31	1229/30	1228/29	1227/28	1226/27	1225/26	1224/25	1223/24	1222/23	1221/22	1220/21	1219/20	1218/19	1217/18	1216/17	1215/16	1214/15	1213/14	1212/13	1211/12	1210/11	1209/10	1208/09	1207/08	1206/07	1205/06	1204/05	1203/04	1202/03	1201/02	1200/01	1199/00	1198/99	1197/98	1196/97	1195/96	1194/95	1193/94	1192/93	1191/92	1190/91	1189/90	1188/89	1187/88	1186/87	1185/86	1184/85	1183/84	1182/83	1181/82	1180/81	1179/80	1178/79	1177/78	1176/77	1175/76	1174/75	1173/74	1172/73	1171/72	1170/71	1169/70	1168/69	1167/68	1166/67	1165/66	1164/65	1163/64	1162/63	1161/62	1160/61	1159/60	1158/59	1157/58	1156/57	1155/56	1154/55	1153/54	1152/53	1151/52	1150/51	1149/50	1148/49	1147/48	1146/47	1145/46	1144/45	1143/44	1142/43	1141/42	1140/41	1139/40	1138/39	1137/38	1136/37	1135/36	1134/35	1133/34	1132/33	1131/32	1130/31	1129/30	1128/29	1127/28	1126/27	1125/26	1124/25	1123/24	1122/23	1121/22	1120/21	1119/20	1118/19	1117/18	1116/17	1115/16	1114/15	1113/14	1112/13	1111/12	1110/11	1109/10	1108/09	1107/08	1106/07	1105/06	1104/05	1103/04	1102/03	1101/02	1100/01	1099/00	1098/99	1097/98	1096/97	1095/96	1094/95	1093/94	1092/93	1091/92	1090/91	1089/90	1088/89	1087/88	1086/87	1085/86	1084/85	1083/84	1082/83	1081/82	1080/81	1079/80	1078/79	1077/78	1076/77	1075/76	1074/75	1073/74	1072/73	1071/72	1070/71	1069/70	1068/69	1067/68	1066/67	1065/66	1064/65	1063/64	1062/63	1061/62	1060/61	1059/60	1058/59	1057/58	1056/57	1055/56	1054/55	1053/54	1052/53	1051/52	1050/51	1049/50	1048/49	1047/48	1046/47	1045/46	1044/45	1043/44	1042/43	1041/42	1040/41	1039/40	1038/39	1037/38	1036/37	1035/36	1034/35	1033/34	1032/33	1031/32	1030/31	1029/30	1028/29	1027/28	1026/27	1025/26	1024/25	1023/24	1022/23	1021/22	1020/21	1019/20	1018/19	1017/18	1016/17	1015/16	1014/15	1013/14	1012/13	1011/12	1010/11	1009/10	1008/09	1007/08	1006/07	1005/06	1004/05	1003/04	1002/03	1001/02	1000/01	999/00	998/99	997/98	996/97	995/96	994/95	993/94	992/93	991/92	990/91	989/90	988/89	987/88	986/87	985/86	984/85	983/84	982/83	981/82	980/81	979/80	978/79	977/78	976/77	975/76	974/75	973/74	972/73	971/72	970/71	969/70	968/69	967/68	966/67	965/66	964/65	963/64	962/63	961/62	960/61	959/60	958/59	957/58	956/57	955/56	954/55	953/54	952/53	951/52	950/51	949/50
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مَكْنَزٌ مِنَ الْأَصْلِ

Industrial notebook

Jobs indictment that shames our leaders

A startling but little publicized document has landed on the circular conference table on the 15th floor of the Millbank Tower, the London meeting place of the National Economic Development Council. It is a document that should shame the leaders of this land into some more real, less political and more properly productive action over jobs.

The paper, presented to NEDC by Mr David Young, chairman of the Manpower Services Commission, proves to be an indictment of the way that Britain is training, or failing to train, people for a future that will increasingly demand new skills.

The fact is that despite the millions being poured into training schemes by private industry and the state, we are in danger of permanently becoming a nation of frustrated unemployed, controlled by a handful of elite and wealthy technocrats.

An absurd generalization? Mr Young's view is: "Our education and training arrangements are neither well prepared, nor well organized, nor well equipped."

He adds: "We have a system which is not producing enough of the skills we need in the form we need them - a system which is not customer-oriented nor as productive as it might be, and where the emphasis is still on yesterday's requirements rather than tomorrow's. In particular, there is not sufficient realization of the dramatic potential of the new technologies for the educational and training processes themselves."

The latest bit of State tinkering with the jobs market, the Youth Training Scheme, has attracted an impressive 250,000 youngsters this year, and while this is well below the total expected by the originators, Mr Young said recently he was confident of finding every unemployed 16-year-old a job by Christmas.

Industry certainly has committed itself in a big way to the YTS - more than the Government expected - but there must be serious doubts as to whether the scheme really marks the beginning of a new dawn in preparing people for work, or whether it is a cynical and temporary means of reducing unemployment.

And to some extent a more important question is whether hard-pressed industry will be prepared to give the YTS recruits a permanent job when their time is up and the

Edward Townsend

APPOINTMENTS

Changes at Lilly Inds

Lilly Industries: Mr Richard A Bailey has been reappointed managing director. Mr Sidney Tauril becomes vice-president of Europe. Mr T S Clifford has been made director of pharmaceutical marketing for the United Kingdom. Mr A Clark becomes general manager of Eli Lilly Italia and Dr John Wold has become managing director for Lilly Research Centre.

Gorsuch Underwriting Agencies: Mr Gordon T Alston has been made director.

Arthur Lee Group of Companies: Mr James Henderson has become managing director of Lee Bright Bars. He will remain managing director of Lee Steel Strip.

Clark Kenneth Leventhal & Company: Mr Bengt Bangstad has been elected chairman.

NFU Mutual Insurance Group: Mr Alun Evans has been appointed a general director.

J E Lesser & Sons (Holdings): Mr J R V Beatty has become director.

Lynton Holdings: Mr Gordon Edington has become joint managing director.

Hamilton Life Assurance: Mr R H Headlee has been appointed chairman and the following become directors: Mr C W Caldwell, Mr P A de Chazal, Mr G J Downing, Mr G E Dundson, Mr D H Maitland, Mr I Martindale, G T Simpson and Mr B H Weston.

Martonair

Extracts from the Review by the Chairman, Mr Ronald Cartwright:

- * There has been no real improvement in the level of world demand and, although there has been a small increase in turnover, results are very similar to those in the previous year. Profit before taxation was £4.27 million as compared with £4.15 million and, after a somewhat lower tax charge, the balance available for appropriation is £2.50 million. A final dividend of 6.55p per share is proposed making a total of 8.5p per share for the year, an increase of approximately 6%.
- * Turnover increased from £39.4 million to £41.7 million of which 71% was in respect of direct exports from the U.K. and sales by overseas subsidiaries. Although trading conditions in the U.K. remained difficult, turnover was increased from £10.4 million to £11.8 million, which would appear to indicate a further increase in market share. In most of our overseas markets, pressure on margins has continued and, although European exchange rates were generally more favourable in the early part of the year, the advantages were somewhat less in the second half.
- * In recent months, a number of new products have been added to our range which, we anticipate, will enable us to further improve our market shares. Further successful developments have been made in the application of electronics and simple robotics and considerable interest is being shown in our new range of modular robotic units.
- * There are signs of increased activity in some of our more important markets and we expect this to be reflected in our turnover in the second half of the financial year. We remain very confident of the continuing growth potential of the Group.

MARTONAIR INTERNATIONAL
p.l.c.

Manufacturers of pneumatic control equipment

Bailey Morris, in Washington, explains an important shift in Reagan's overseas strategy

US ready to drop big stick to woo its trade critics

The Reagan Administration now intends to seek closer consultations with its largest trading partners on a wide range of economic and trade issues in an attempt to defuse increasingly hostile criticism from its closest allies.

This was the message of Mr Malcolm Baldrige, the US Secretary of Commerce, who indicated in an interview with *The Times* that the Administration will try to resolve disputes over the next year by walking softly rather than carrying a big stick.

Mr Baldrige said that President Reagan's trip to Asia this week during which he will seek a compromise solution to the yen-dollar imbalance, was a good indication of the new willingness to consult on problems rather than issue unilateralism.

In what could be called the maturing of the Reagan Administration, Mr Baldrige said there was now a realization among cabinet officials that the harsh rhetoric which characterized some earlier negotiations, particularly in the East-West trade area, had been counter-productive.

It will be in this spirit that the Administration approaches its important talks in Brussels on December 9 with officials of the European Community.

White House officials said they regarded the talks as an important step in solidifying US-European relations. This was the reason for the President's decision to send for the

third time in three years a group of his closest advisers including Mr George Schultz, the Secretary of State; Mr Donald Regan, the Treasury Secretary; Mr William Brock, the US trade representative and Mr Baldrige.

"During the first year of this Administration, I think we could be accused rightfully of not talking enough with our European allies but we tried to change that," Mr Baldrige said.

Progress in lowering tensions after the United States tried to include European companies in its own Soviet-pipeline sanctions and in achieving an agreement on reduction of carbon steel imports from Europe was cited by Mr Baldrige as good reason for more frequent consultations.

"We've lowered the level of rhetoric and we want to keep it that way. No one wants the alternative of a trade war," he said.

Mr Baldrige even suggested that the Administration would be willing to take a new look at proposals for a conference similar to that at Bretton Woods to reform the international monetary system. This subject could be central to the latest meeting of the group of 10 industrial nations in Paris next week.

Although the US Administration remained firm in its opposition to a policy of intervention to correct wild fluctuations in the dollar, Mr Baldrige said there was a strong desire for closer cooperation on financial matters including



Baldrige: bringing new spirit of rapprochement to talks in Brussels

coordination of exchange rate policies.

Over the past year, European officials have made clear that economic recovery in Europe is tied to a strong recovery in the United States and a stable, less inflated dollar.

Until recently, however, the Administration has insisted there was little it could do about the overvalued dollar which it said remained high because investors viewed the US as a "safe harbour" when there was

turbulence elsewhere in the world.

The indication of a shift in policy should not be regarded "as a giant step but rather a small step", which is an important sign that the United States is more willing to listen to the rest of the industrialized world, Mr Baldrige said.

Even a small step towards more cooperation will be welcomed in European capitals where officials have often criticized the high-handed be-

haviour of some Reagan Administration officials who have attempted to dictate policy to their counterparts.

Often, it was the tone of the US talk as much as the substance which irritated Europeans. One senior European diplomat said: "We were not consulted on the final carbon steel decision until the eleventh hour and the Soviet gas pipeline sanctions were a *fait accompli*."

During the trade negotiations in Geneva last November, the United States tried to apply particularly heavy pressure which backfired. Why the change in tone?

It has probably occurred as a result of both criticism from abroad and the growing internal power of administration moderates such as Mr Schultz and Mr Baldrige, both of whom serve on the important cabinet economic and trade councils.

Mr Baldrige has recently solidified his position as the Administration's top spokesman on industry and trade matters by winning a bureaucratic struggle with Mr Brock.

He, for one is now prepared to admit that some administration officials had not realized how closely linked the US economy was to the rest of the world.

But the linkage theory has gradually sunk in and US officials are now concerned that trade channels remain open and economic gains spread to the rest of the world.

This was the reason for their strong commitment to increased resources for the International Monetary Fund and to closer cooperation among governments.

Over the next year and a half when the momentum of recovery must be maintained, exports will be increasingly important to all nations, including the United States, which is also looking abroad for growth.

During the past year, for example, the combination of the over-valued dollar and the debt crisis have hit US exports so hard that the trade deficit is now projected at a record \$70 billion this year.

Mexico cut imports from the United States by 50 per cent or \$9 billion; Brazil by between 30 per cent and 40 per cent; and Romania cut imports from all sources by 50 per cent.

'The US tried to apply heavy pressure which backfired'

The United States calculated that it lost 25,000 jobs for every \$1 billion of lost exports. Thus as a result of the Mexican cutback alone an estimated 200,000 workers were laid off, Mr Baldrige said.

These severe restraints cannot be allowed to continue if the world is to recover fully, he said, and he is determined to open communications at the highest levels to resolve the problems.

This may not be a giant step forward, but it is an important shift in policy nonetheless.

FIRST NINE MONTHS - 1983

Ultramar

MEETING THE CHALLENGES

Review of Ultramar Group Financial Results and Operations

Summary of Financial Results

	First Nine Months 1983 £ million	First Nine Months 1982 £ million
Turnover	1,332.5	1,033.8
Profit on ordinary activities before taxation	113.2	131.8
Profit on ordinary activities after taxation	74.8	73.5
Cash flow from operations	96.2	110.9
Capital expenditures	236.9	138.0

Extracts from the Chairman's Statement:

The third quarter results were an improvement over the second quarter. The main profit centres continue to be our oil and gas producing operations in Indonesia, the North Sea and Western Canada. Marketing operations in the Western United States and the U.K. also had a profitable third quarter, but our large refining and marketing interests in Eastern Canada continue to be disappointing.

The main projects in our two year expansion and modernisation programme have now been completed and should begin to have an impact on profits in the fourth quarter. The two new LNG trains in Indonesia and the catalytic cracking unit at the Quebec Refinery are on stream and have operated above design capacities. The LNG train damaged in an accident earlier this year has been repaired and is operating. The North Sea Maureen Field is on production and expected to reach its full capacity early next year.

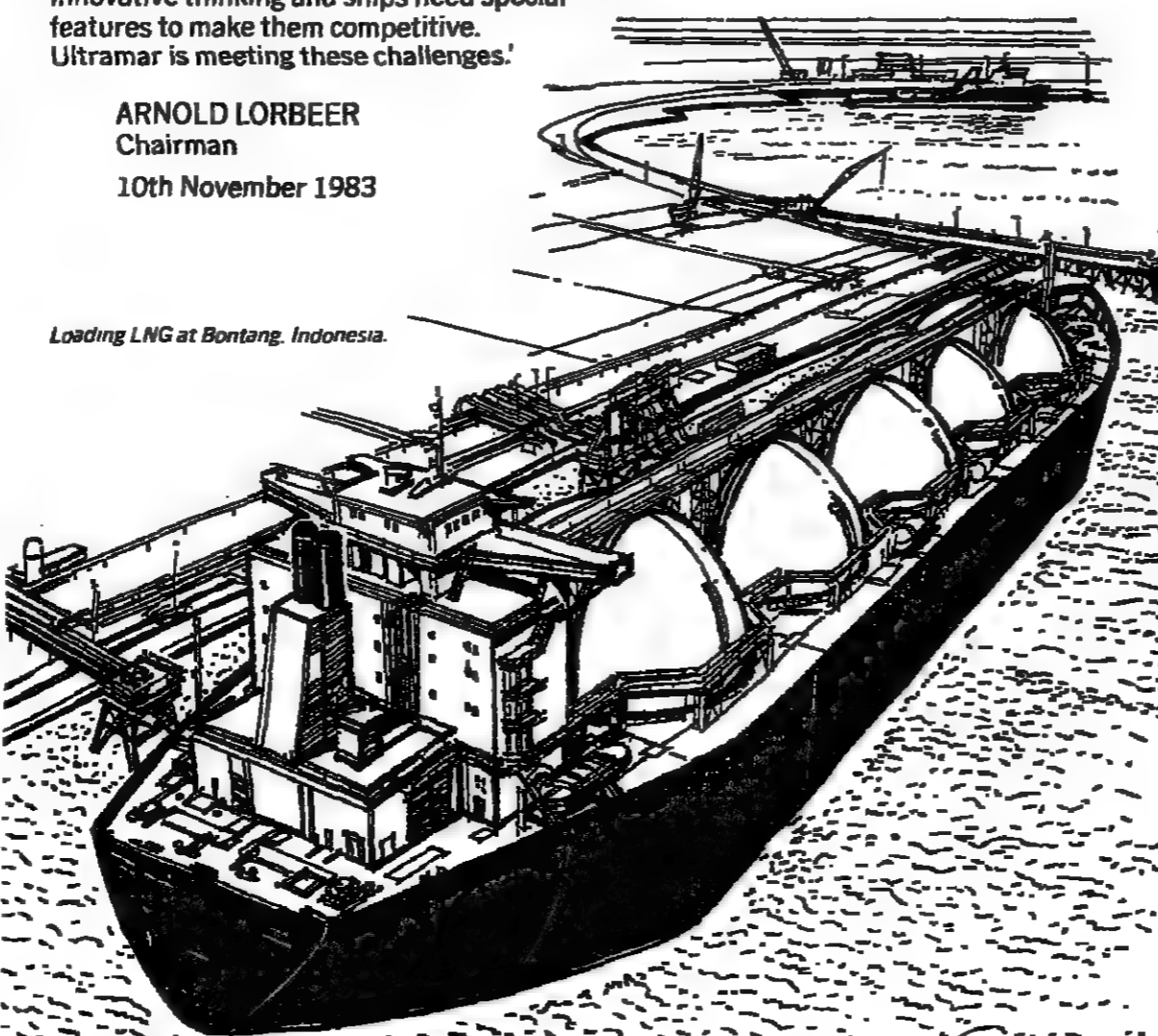
"We have been informed that, subject to the requisite consents, we were successful in purchasing four units totalling one per cent of the Forties Field for a total consideration of £30 million."

The oil industry is gradually adjusting to the changed world, but there are still excess production, refining, marketing and transportation facilities. Economics dictate caution in the commercial development of new oil and gas discoveries; refineries have to be sophisticated or shut down; marketing is becoming more selective and requires innovative thinking and ships need special features to make them competitive. Ultramar is meeting these challenges.

ARNOLD LORBEER
Chairman

10th November 1983

Loading LNG at Bontang, Indonesia.



Consolidated Profit and Loss Account	First Nine Months 1983 £ million	First Nine Months 1982 £ million	Year 1982 £ million
Turnover	£1,332.5	£1,033.8	£1,513.3
Cost of Sales	1,155.9	843.8	1,246.1
Gross profit	176.6	190.0	267.2
Distribution costs and administrative expenses	79.4	63.7	93.4
Other operating income	97.2	126.3	173.8
Interest payable	26.2	24.8	32.7
Profit on ordinary activities before taxation	123.4	151.1	206.5
Taxation on profit on ordinary activities	10.2	19.3	23.0
Profit on ordinary activities after taxation	113.2	131.8	183.5
Ordinary Shares dividends 1983-Interim 6p per share (1982 5½p per share)	38.4	58.3	79.4
1982-Final 9½p per share	74.8	73.5	104.1
Advance Corporation Tax written off	8.1	5.9	5.9
	—	—	10.3
	4.8	2.6	3.0
Earnings retained for the period	12.9	8.5	19.2
Earnings per share	£61.9	£65.0	£84.9
	57.3p	65.0p	91.9p

Principal translation and conversion exchange rates used by the Group are

	30th September 1983	30th September 1982	31st December 1982
£1 equals US\$	1.50	1.70	1.62
£1 equals Can\$	1.54	2.09	1.99

Operating Results

	First Nine Months 1983	First Nine Months 1982
Sales of oil (barrels per day)	209,600	175,300
Oil refined (barrels per day)	81,800	87,800
Oil produced (barrels per day)	9,200	9,200
Gas produced (thousands of cubic feet per day)	151,900	173,700
Gross wells drilled	104	111
Oil and gas wells completed (in which the Group has varying interests)	71	64



Ultramar
Morgan House, 1 Angel Court
London EC2R 7AU

For a copy of the full Review of Group Financial Results and Operations for the Nine Months to 30th September 1983 please complete and return the coupon to the Company Secretary at the above address.

Name _____
Address _____

Today's television and radio programmes

Edited by Peter Davalle

BBC 1

- 6.00** Ceefax: News and information service, wide-ranging, but without pictures.
- 6.30** Breakfast Time: With Selma Scott and Mike Smith. Today's special items include pop news (between 7.45 and 8.00) and Audrey Eytan's keep-it phone-in (between 8.30 and 8.45). Regular items include news at 6.30 and half-hourly until 8.30; sport (8.45-9.00); Morning Papers (7.15 and 8.15); Horoscope (8.30-8.45).
- 9.00** My Music: early morning treat, with Steve Price putting the questions to Frank Muir and John Amis, and Denis Norden and Ian Wallace (P. 11) at 9.25.
- 10.30** Play School: Hocus Pocus: 10.55 Play Ideas: with Sarah Long. Closes down at 11.05.
- 12.30** News After Noone: with Richard Whitmore and Frances Cowardale. 12.57 Financial Report. And sub-titled news.
- 1.00** Pebble Mill at One: Twenty years after the assassination of President Kennedy, William Manchester, an authority on the life and death of Kennedy, is in the studio to comment on the drama that stunned the world. 1.45 Little Misses and the Mister West: for the toddlers.
- 2.00** Film: Not Enough for June (1963) Dirk Bogarde, penitence writer, finds himself being used as a spy in Czechoslovakia. Director: Ralph Thomas.
- 3.35** Daffy Duck Double: 3.50 cartoons from the United States; 3.55 Play School: It's a Friday; 4.20 Bananaman: with the voice of The Goodies, and Jim Shilling; 4.25 Bananaman: Sayo inside reads a Japanese tale; 4.40 Take Hart with Tony Hart and, as the caricature, Colin Bennett; 5.00 Bananaman: the guests are The Goodies; 5.05 Bananaman: the guests are The Thompson Twins, Jimmy and the Hoovers and the plait-spinner called Bartoschky. Plus Suzanne Dando and David Waine.
- 5.40** Sixty Minutes: the line-up is - news at 5.40, regional news at 5.45, weather at 5.50 and closing headlines at 5.58 (all timings are approximate).
- 6.40** Friday Sportsman: with Desmond Lynam.
- 6.55** Show Business: Interviews with Twiggy and her co-star in My One and Only musical, Tommy Tune; also, interviews with John Wells, George Michael, of Wham! pop group, and Jasper Carrott. And Bette Midler as author (on video).
- 7.20** Film: Carry on At Your Convenience (1971) Carry on comedy which cracks away over lavatory joke in the book. All about a strike at a sanitary fittings factory. With Sidney James, Kenneth Williams etc.
- 8.45** Points of View: Barry Took comments on viewers' letters.
- 9.00** News with John Humphrys.
- 9.25** Knots Landing: As a grief therapy meeting, Karen meets a sympathetic widower, and Diana falls foul of the law.
- 10.15** My Kind of Music: The choice is Anne Lane Gillies'. Her guest is Alma Price.
- 10.45** News headlines.
- 10.50** Film: Sunday Too Far Away (1974) Tough tale of Australian sheep shearers and their fight against out-thrust competition. Starring Jack Thompson and Phyllis Ophel. Directed by Ken Hannan. (replaces the dispute-hit Man of the Year coverage). Ends at 12.25.

tv-am

- 6.25** Good Morning Britain: with Rick Owen and John Simpson. Today's special items include Ceefax (8.50); guest George Fenn (7.35); Viewers Reply to the Monday Morning (7.45); Fantasy Time, with Frankie Vaughan (8.00); a Review (8.35); and more Ceefax (8.50). Regular items include news at 6.30, then half-hourly until 9.00, then at 9.25; sport at 6.35, 7.35 and 8.30; The morning papers (8.25); and Competition Time (8.25).
- ITV/LONDON**
- 9.25** Thames news headlines. 9.30 For Schools: Biology for A-level students; 9.47 The Characters family; 10.05 Frightening phobias; 10.20 Moulding and manipulating plastics; 10.45 Job satisfaction; 11.05 Crime story, with Nina Sawden; 11.20 Adventure in Venice (2); 11.30 Bill Grundy on the South Downs.
- 12.00** We'll Tell You a Story: with Christopher Lillicrap; 12.10 Rainbow (repeated at 4.00); 12.30 Positive Thinking: Interviews with three people concerned with developing new relationships between doctor and patient.
- 1.00** News from ITN: 1.20 Thames news; 1.30 About Britain: The Characters family; 1.45 We meet a Cornish band, some Rugby fanatics, and a happily separated husband and wife.
- 2.00** Private Benjamin: US Army comedy series starring Lorne Greene in the role of Goldie Hawn. Film in the movie: cinema film; 2.30 Falcon Crest: the continuing story of a California wine-growing family. Starring Jane Wyman; 3.30 Blockbusters: General knowledge quiz.
- 4.00** Children's ITV: Rainbow (1); 4.20 Dangerous: episode 4.5 of the cartoon series (1); 4.25 Scooby: strong man competition; 4.50 The Disappearing Trail: where did the monsters go?; 5.15 The Young Doctors.
- 5.45** News: 5.00 The Six O'Clock Show: London news stories that contain more chucks than croons. Plus star guests.
- 7.00** Family Fortunes: the Max Bygraves quiz. The winners from County Antrim are matched against the Reeves from Wiltshire.
- 7.30** The A-Team: Searching for a little girl's mother, BA uncovers an illegal smuggling operation.
- 8.30** A Fine Romance: There are endless unforeseen complications when Laura and Mike make a "Mr and Mrs" booking at a wedding hotel.
- 9.00** Art Widescreen: Part New comedy series about three Newcastle upon Tyne building workers who are lured to West Germany by the promise of good wages, luxury accommodation and lots of attractive fringe benefits. Tim Healy, Jimmy Nail and Kevin Whately head the cast (See Choice).
- 10.00** News from ITN.
- 10.30** The London Programme: Why football hooliganism has arrived in spite of the millions of pounds spent on plans to try to contain it. Chances fans are interviewed.
- 11.00** World Championship Boxing: Hagler v Duran for the undisputed World Heavyweight title.
- 12.00** Continental Movie: Why Not Speak of Love (1980). Hungarian-made drama about two students whose college days love affair is not to survive long in the outside world. With György Tarján and László Gábor. Directed by Peter Bacsó. With English subtitles. Followed by Night Thoughts, from Susan Dowell.



William Ingram: A Solitary Myster (BBC 2, 8.10pm)

Long ago, we passed the stage where we could seriously expect to find anything on the small screen that owed absolutely nothing to precedent. The most we can hope for is some high-quality re-cycling. **AUF WIEDERSEHEN, PET IT!** (9.00) is Boys from the Black Staff with the corners of his lips curving up rather than down, a George Costello replacing the Scouse, Germany substituting for Merseyside, and legitimate labouring jobs on foreign soil instead of high-risk, short-term spivs on the local. In view of all these unknown denominators, then, you will be wondering how it can bracket the comedy serial that begins tonight with Alan Bleasdale's marvelous drama sequence. It is because *Auf Wiedersehen, Pet*, scripted by those old hands at the

CHOICE

comedy game, Dick Clement and Ian La Frenais (*The Likely Lads*, *Corrie*), deals with a bunch of men who find sharp and gusty fun in a situation - the rough end of the building trade - where humour is not indigenous. **THE SOLITARY MYSTER** (BBC 2, 8.10pm), the second panel of BBC Wales's triptych devised to commemorate the 30th anniversary of Dylan Thomas's death - the third is the repeated interview with his widow, Caitlin (BBC 2, 11.45) - is a highly imaginative, but not wholly successful, attempt to turn the West Wales village of Laugharne into a template for the poet's restless inspiration. The dead Dylan, reincarnated in the approximately identical shape of the actor William

Ingram, returns to his old familiar haunts (pub, beach, boat house, writing shed) while, at fresco, under the shadow of Laugharne castle, a trio of actors reads the words after resting off a barbed pig. The spirit caught, I think, have been better merely to let the camera roam and add Dylan's disembodied voice to that of the poet, especially as Herbert Williams has written some post-mortem lines for the poet that have an uncanny ring of authenticity.

There is a ghostly intrusion, too, in **THE BRIDE** (BBC 2, 7.05pm). Its unexpectedness helps to lift Fanny Ardant's story well above the level of last year's *Goodbye, Art...*. A reminder that tonight she is the final episode of *GOOD BEHAVIOUR* (BBC 2, 9.25pm).

and piano on Handel's *See the conquering hero comes* - *Hosprotopos* and *Devesa* (piano). Bach, with Schoenberg (Prelude and Fugue, St Anne, BWV 562).

6.00 News.

6.50 Morning Concert: part two. J.C. Bach (overture, *Antares*). Bottesini (grand duo for violin, double bass and orchestra - with Ricci and Francesco Petrosi). Soler (Concerto No 3 for two keyboards - Kenneth Gilbert and Trevor Pinnock). Schumann (concerto: Scherzo and Finale).

8.00 News.

8.50 This Week's Composer: Arnold Bax. *The Elegiac Trio* and the *Symphony No 5*.

10.00 Form and Fantasy: Bach trans. Beethoven (Fantasy and Fugue in A minor). Chopin (Prelude, Fantasia, Op. 10) and Medtner (Sonata in A minor, Op. 50).

10.40 Robert Russell Bennett's overture *Prince Igor* (orch. Glasgown), the *Peter Suite* and *Symphony No 4* in A minor. Words by Geoffrey to music by Beethoven, Liszt and Busoni. With Glyn Davies (piano) and Robert Russell Bennett (conductor).

12.15 Swansea Festival of Music 1983: BBC Welsh Solo, with Doreen Bell (piano). Part 1: William Mathias (Lullaby - the composer - conducting) and Rachmaninov (*Rhapsody on theme of Paganini*).

1.00 News.

1.05 St. Constantine: foreign radio broadcasts, monitored by the BBC.

1.20 Swansea Festival of Music 2: *Berlioz's Symphonie* (conductor: Robert Russell Bennett).

2.15 Music for Piano and Violin: with Derek Collier (violin) and Daphne Abbott. Tchaikovsky, Collier, Robert Russell Bennett (Harpisod) and Ravel (*Tzigane*).

3.00 The New Field: with the New Irish Chamber Orchestra and John O'Connor (piano). Haydn's *Symphony No 64*, and Field's *Piano Concerto*.

4.00 Choral Evensong: from Choral Cathedral; 4.56.

5.00 Mainly for Pleasure: Another David Hovis selection. Includes works by Tchaikovsky and Schubert (*Quartet in a minor, D 804*).

5.20 Music for Guitar: Balazs Szekely plays works by Manuel Ponce, 3.25. Tchaikovsky, 4.15. *World News*, 4.45. *The World Today*, 5.00. *World News*, 5.15. *World News*, 5.30. *World News*, 5.45. *World News*, 5.55. *World News*, 6.00. *World News*, 6.15. *World News*, 6.30. *World News*, 6.45. *World News*, 6.55. *World News*, 7.00. *World News*, 7.15. *World News*, 7.30. *World News*, 7.45. *World News*, 7.55. *World News*, 8.00. *World News*, 8.15. *World News*, 8.30. *World News*, 8.45. *World News*, 8.55. *World News*, 9.00. *World News*, 9.15. *World News*, 9.30. *World News*, 9.45. *World News*, 9.55. *World News*, 10.00. *World News*, 10.15. *World News*, 10.30. *World News*, 10.45. *World News*, 10.55. *World News*, 11.00. *World News*, 11.15. *World News*, 11.30. *World News*, 11.45. *World News*, 11.55. *World News*, 12.00. *World News*, 12.15. *World News*, 12.30. *World News*, 12.45. *World News*, 12.55. *World News*, 1.00. *World News*, 1.15. *World News*, 1.30. *World News*, 1.45. *World News*, 1.55. *World News*, 2.00. *World News*, 2.15. 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Hundreds of would-be Olivers sing for their supper

Hundreds of children flocked to the Aldwych Theatre, London, yesterday to audition for the musical *Oliver!* which opens on December 14 (Mark Russell writes).

At stake were the parts of Fagin's gang of street urchins, and Oliver.

When the stage doors opened in the morning, the queue of hopefuls stretched around two sides of the building. Inside, parents were segregated quickly from their offspring.

The director, Mr Geoffrey Ferris, said: "We keep the parents away, as it can inhibit the children, as well as causing us problems."

"What we are looking for varies. Fagin's gang are rumbustious boys, vigorous, with plenty of life. 'Oliver' must have a glorious voice, and a quality of innocence."

"We do get tears, but girls are usually worse than boys at taking down gently."

Most were disappointed before seeing Mr Ferris, knocked out in the qualifying auditions, where batches of 10 boys were made to sing solo and in chorus.

The examiners eliminated quickly awkward shapes (children in Victorian workhouses did not tend to run to fat).

One early qualifier was Neil Cooper, aged 11, from High Wycombe, on his first audition. His mother, Mrs Shirley Cooper, said: "He dragged me here, he's always trying things out. He's a very determined boy."

Called by the director, Neil was given quick reassurance by a friendly stage veteran aged 12: "It'll be all right, do your best and sing out well."

But for Neil there was no green ticket, the passport to the shortlist and today's dancing auditions.

Mrs Cooper took her son home, promising him that they would try again.

Oliver!, which stars Ron Moody as Fagin, will run until January 14.



Chorus line: Boys queuing for the *Oliver!* auditions yesterday. (Photographs: Brian Harris).



Joint force ruled out

Continued from page 1

Commonwealth leaders would want to exacerbate divisions in the Caribbean about the legality of the American and Caribbean invasion of Grenada.

The important thing was to try to be effective in terms of Grenada's needs as a Commonwealth member country.

The Commonwealth had a special duty to try to make the world a safer place for small states like Grenada as well as to make them safe for the world.

"When the dust of disquiet over Grenada has settled - indeed perhaps well before then - this issue of smallness must be confronted."

"Twice since Commonwealth heads of government met in Melbourne - in the South Atlantic and now in the Caribbean - smallness has been a factor in a major threat to world order."

Very small states were not just scaled-down versions of larger states, he said.

Telecom engineers bow to court

Continued from page 1

The union members declared their determination to pursue with "renewed vigour" the campaign of industrial action against government privatisation plans for British Telecom but there was unofficial acceptance that the agreement to obey the injunction granted by the Court of Appeal on Wednesday would make a dent in the engineers' enthusiasm for the anti-privatisation campaign.

The final voting was by a margin of about 3-1 in favour of accepting the recommendation from the union executive that there was no alternative to compliance with the injunction granted by Sir John Donaldson, Master of the Rolls. The size of the majority backing the executive surprised some union officials but that support came after delegates heard dire warnings of the consequences of defiance. An initial fine of between £50,000 and £100,000

was likely to be imposed, they were told, followed by fines for each day that the injunction was not obeyed.

The conference was told by Mr Brian Stanley, the union general secretary: "If you vote against the national executive council you will be destroying this union. You have got to decide if we obey it now or in two weeks time when we have been smashed. It is not a question of if we obey, but when we obey."

Union officials were last night saying privately that the decision not to cooperate with court action by delegates to the climbdown forced by the court injunction. In normal times the executive's proposals for jobs training would have been accepted.

The clash between British Telecom engineers and Mercury involves five minutes' work with pliers and a screwdriver. Leading article, page 13

Frank Johnson in the Commons

Speaker heckles Mr Skinker

Mr Bernard Weatherill, the new holder of the office of Mr Speaker, yesterday made two unusual interventions in remarks by Mr Dennis Skinner, the long-standing holder of the office of Mr Skinker.

With all the dignity of his ancient office, which goes back to his election as left-wing Labour Member for Bolsover during the troubled reign of Mr Edward Heath, the Speaker, as is his custom, rose yesterday during Prime Minister's questions.

He was immediately heckled by an SDP Member and came to a halt. Under the conventions of the constitution, it is Mr Skinker who heckles an SDP Member and forces him to come to a halt.

Mr Skinker had started to demand of the Prime Minister: "When Mr MacGregor, the Bank Manager, his man in charge of the coal industry..." But he stopped. For Mr John Cartwright, the SDP Member for Wokingham, could be heard keeping up a steady commentary consisting of "Rhubarb-rhubarb... Rhubarb-rhubarb-rhubarb..."

It is not possible for a speaker to be specific as to content, for only the "Dennis" was audible to the gallery. Heckling is in its infancy in the SDP. Mr Cartwright had not yet learnt to project his words upwards to those of whose function is to immortalize such interventions.

But he was doing well, for Mr Skinker had stopped. "I think the Hon Member needs 'rhubarb' protection", ironically observed the Speaker, the man who is more customary in the business of protecting people from Mr Skinker.

When Mr MacGregor spoke in Nottingham yesterday, he said that if the miners refused to bend over time, then they would withdraw the... Mr Cartwright again rhubarbed for England.

Mr Skinker again stopped. Then he started once more. So did Mr Cartwright. The Tories joined in. Mr Skinker began to develop a somewhat complex argument about the miners' five-day week agreement and marginal tax relief to oil companies.

The Tories: "Boring! Boring!" Mr Cartwright: the same as before. Mr Skinker: more of the same. Mr Cartwright: see above.

During one of Mr Skinker's several halts, the Speaker,

perhaps relishing the situation just a little, cried at him: "Come on!"

Speaker heckles Skinner.

Later in reply to a point of order from Mr Ian Wright, the Speaker commented: "The Hon. Member has been here many years. 'On and off', he heckled Mr Skinker, one of whose present campaigns is about alleged SDP Liberal non-attendance in the chamber."

Whereupon, Mr Cartwright returned to his earlier theme. But this time some of his words reached us. It was something about Mr Skinker having fallen off his bike. At last one realized what underlay the day's hostilities.

Ever since Parliament returned this autumn, Mr Skinker has been mocking Mr David Steel, the Liberal leader, for having taken time off from politics in the summer, it having been reported that Mr Steel was suffering from depression. Mr Cartwright had clearly remembered that a few years ago Mr Skinker had taken time off from politics after falling off his bike and onto his head.

There is a straight conflict of evidence here between those who believe that depression is a genuine ailment, just like a blow to the head caused by falling off one's bike, and those preposterous such as Mr Skinker who do not. We badly needed yesterday a medical opinion.

Also to be heard yesterday was one of those glorious occasions when lots of members feel that dignity has been affronted. On a point of order, the Labour Member Mr Dick Douglas, said it was improper for Mr Russell Johnston, the Liberal, to have written in that day's *Times* that the Speaker was not allowing enough Liberal speeches.

Mr Johnston should be disciplined, he suggested. Mr John Evans, another Labour Member, capped that by suggesting that *The Times* should be disciplined.

A spectacular climax was reached with Mr Norman St John Stevas saying that it was deplorable that a member should write a newspaper article criticizing the Speaker because you could only do that by substantive motion of the House. It should certainly not be done Mr St John Stevas added, via "this newspaper, which has connection with the House whatsoever." (I resented that.)

THE TIMES INFORMATION SERVICE

Today's events

Royal engagements

The Duke of Gloucester opens a new warehouse conversion on behalf of London and Quadrant Housing Association and Hunt Thomson Associates at Thames Tunnel Mills, Rotherhithe, 8. The Duke of Kent, President of the Commonwealth War Graves Commission, attends the Gardens' Remembrance Service at St George's Chapel, Westminster Abbey, 11.57.

Prince Michael of Kent opens 1983 Caravan Camping Holiday Show, Earls Court, 11.

Last chance to see
Porcelain and stoneware by Lucie Rie, Peter Dingley Gallery, 8 Chapel Street, Stratford upon Avon: 9.30 to 1.30, 2.30 to 5.0 (ends tomorrow).
Sculpture by Francoise Lewis, Ginnel Gallery, 16 Lloyd's Street, Manchester 9 to 5.30 (ends today).
Drawings by George Stubbs from his book *The Anatomy of the Horse*, Dorset County Museum, Dorchester: 10 to 5 (ends today).

Glass, porcelain, jewelry, paintings, cartoons and watercolours, Katherine House Gallery, The Parade, Marlborough, Wiltshire: 10 to 5 (ends today).

Paintings by Joseph O'Reilly, Mappin Art Gallery, Weston Park, Sheffield: 10 to 5 (ends today).
Police Society - Arthur Davis: portraits of the English country gentleman and his family, Harris Museum and Art Gallery, Market Square, Preston: 10 to 5 (ends tomorrow).

Exhibitions in progress
Drawn from Life: Ralph Brown, Edward Piper, William Wilkins and Clare Jarratt, Orle 31, 31 High Street, Westphale, Poyers, Mon to Sat 11 to 5 (until Nov 30).
Community arts in Yorkshire: Silkweaving and leatherwork by Keith Brown and Mary Godfrey (until Dec 4); and Landscapes, changing view (until Nov 30).
Cooper Gallery, Church Street, Barnsley: Tues 1 to 5.30, Wed to Sun 10 to 5.30.

Work by the Stoke-on-Trent Engravers' Guild, City Museum and Art Gallery, Bethesda Street, Hanley, Stoke-on-Trent: Mon to Sat 10.30 to 5, Wed 10.30 to 5 (until Dec 17).

Talks, Lectures
Photography, peace and publishing, by Ed Barber, Museum of Modern Art, 30 Pembroke Street, Oxford, 8.

The world of art and antiques, MacRobert Arts Centre, Stirling, 7.45.

Music
Concert by City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra, St David's Hall, Cardiff, 7.30.
Recital by Eudymon Ensemble, Concert by Hague Philharmonic Orchestra, Colston Hall, Colston Street, Bristol, 7.30.

Recital by Salomon String Quartet, St Anselm Arts Centre, Turo Road, 8.

Concert by Halle Orchestra, Royal Concert Hall, Theatre Square, Nottingham, 7.30.

Concert by Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra with John Williams, Festival Theatre, Palmgrove, 7.30.

King's School Concert, St Nicholas Church, Rochester, 7.30.

Parliament today
Commons (9.30): Video Recordings Bill, second reading.

Anniversaries
Births: Louis-Antoine de Bougainville, navigator, Paris, 1732; Fyodor Dostoyevsky (old style), October 30, Moscow, 1821; Edouard Vuillard, painter, Cussey, France, 1868; The Allies and Germany signed an armistice, 1918; King George V unveiled the Cenotaph in Whitehall and an Unknown Warrior was buried in Westminster Abbey, 1920.

Solution of Puzzle No 16,283
ACROSS
1 In the right set, with water supply ensured? (4,9)
9 Supply, unheated, is better outside? (9)
10 After short time, supply tea or coffee? (5)
11 Chap will ring - and probably hear this? (5)
12 Bit of news producing some excitement? (4)
13 Girl of 19? (4)
14 Making cuts in private education here? (7)
15 Illustration requires lenient treatment? (7)
16 Split up FBI agents in group? (7)
17 Foul-spoken method of preparation for battle? (7)
18 Observe Lawrence's initial disappearance? (4)
19 He swindle? (4)
20 Relatively close finisher of game? (5)
21 Vehicle recently withdrawn? (5)
22 Grandiose trip arranged? (9)
23 WWII plane has to climb - doesn't go above Hurricane? (8,5)

Prize Crossword in The Times tomorrow
CONCISE CROSSWORD PAGE 10

Food prices

Supplies of home-produced lamb have improved and prices have eased, whole legs cost £1.28 to £1.60 a pound in Dewhurst shops, and whole shoulders 75p to 99p. Tesco have New Zealand shoulder at 68p and chops at 78p a pound, and Sainsbury have New Zealand leg at £1.09. Beef and pork prices remain stable: topside and silverside range from £1.88 to £2.35 a pound, with minced beef in Sainsbury and Fine Fare at 89p and butlers in Tesco at £1.58. Whole legs of pork are 88p to £1.20 a pound, loin chops £1.13 to £1.40 and boneless shoulder 90p to £1.30. Marks and Spencer have excellent chickens reduced to 69p a pound and fresh duck at 93p.

Continuing good weather has meant abundant supplies of fish: cod and haddock fillets average £1.29 and £1.32 a pound respectively, plaice £1.51, herring 66p and mackerel 47p.

Best vegetable buys this week include super quality Brussels sprouts at 20-30p a pound, cauliflower 20-40p each, leeks 28-40p a pound, parsnips at 14-25p a pound, carrots 8-16p, swedes 12-16p and turnips 12-18p are all good quality and value.

Grapes remain a wonderful buy: Italian and Spanish white Italy 50-70p a pound, Spanish Almeria 30-35p. Cox's apples are 25-45p a pound, Russets 28-38p, French, Italian and Dutch Golden Delicious 22-30p. New season Spanish Navelina oranges are 10-22p each, and juicy, seedless satsumas 20-25p a pound for small sizes, 28-35p for larger ones.

Christmas post
Monday, November 14, is the latest recommended posting date for Christmas cards and parcels being sent by ship to Malta and Gibraltar, and also to the Azores, Canary Islands, Cape Verde, Italy, Madeira, Portugal and Spain.

A leaflet, "Overseas Christmas Mail 1983" is available free from post offices.

The pound

	Bank	Bank
Australia \$	2.68	1.60
Austria Sch	29.00	27.40
Belgium Fr	84.00	80.00
Canada \$	1.89	1.82
Denmark Kr	14.77	14.97
Finland Mk	8.82	8.42
France Fr	12.38	11.58
Germany DM	4.09	3.90
Greece Dr	155.00	147.00
Hong Kong \$	11.85	11.25
Ireland Pt	1.31	1.26
Italy Lira	2475.00	2365.00
Japan Yen	364.00	346.00
Netherlands Gld	4.60	4.37
Norway Kr	11.50	10.90
Portugal Esc	205.00	191.00
South Africa Rd	1.80	1.67
Spain Ptas	234.50	227.50
Sweden Kr	12.14	11.57
Switzerland Fr	3.33	3.16
USA \$	1.53	1.48
Yugoslavia Dnr	223.00	208.00

Rates for small denomination bank notes only, as supplied by Barclays Bank International Ltd. Different rates apply to travellers' cheques and other foreign currency business.

Retail Price Index: 339.5.
London: The FT Index closed down 1.2 at 720.5.

Roads

London and South-east A40: New layout on Western Avenue between Horsenden Lane and Medway Parade; long delays. A12: One lane northbound on Brentwood bypass, Essex. A328: Re-surfacing on Wokingham Road, Guildford and Stoke Road is closed southbound.

Wales and West A429: Temporary signals Gloucester to Bourton, Gloucester, on North Leach bypass. A46 delays in High Street and Gloucester Street, Stroud. A31: Roadworks at Bero Regis to Ringwood Road. A4 temporary signals in working hours at Henbury, restrictions at Wimborne; single lane only at St Ives.

Midlands and East Angles A1: One carriageway shared N of Norman Cross, Cambridgeshire (junction with A15). A1: Lines closed at Colchester, Lincolnshire. A34: Roadworks at Hanley-in-Arden High Street.

North: M1: Southbound carriageway shared between junctions 32 and 39 (Huddersfield to Wakefield). A1: One lane, temporary lights at Felton bypass on River Coquet bridge, Northumberland. A523: Division N of Macclesfield, Cheshire.

Scotland: M74: Lines closed on sliproads at junction 4 (Motherwell), Strathclyde. A74: Westbound carriageway shared on London Road, Lanarkshire; seek alternative routes. A52: Lines closed on Great Western Road, Glasgow, near Crownwell Street.

Information supplied by the A.A.

The papers

The Sea comments: "November 11 is the exact anniversary of the armistice of 1918, when the sacrifice of our fighting men and women brought us victory over the forces of evil and saved our freedom. It is the symbol of our debt to all our forces... Is there any real reason why we should not name November 11 as Armistice Day again - and leave the people to keep and cherish it as they choose?"

Top films

Top box office films in London:
1 (U) The Juggler / Mickey's
2 (U) The Juggler
3 (U) The Star Chamber
4 (U) The Juggler
5 (U) The Juggler
6 (U) The Juggler
7 (U) The Juggler
8 (U) The Juggler
9 (U) The Juggler
10 (U) The Juggler

Top video rentals

1 First Blood (Thorn EMI)
2 First Blood (Warner)
3 Blade Runner (Warner)
4 10 to Midnight (Gulf)
5 The Best of Times (Thorn EMI)
6 The Best of Times (Thorn EMI)
7 Who Dares Wins (Rankin)
8 The Best of Times (Thorn EMI)
9 The Best of Times (Thorn EMI)
10 The Best of Times (Thorn EMI)

Weather forecast

A frontal trough will clear slowly from SW Britain.

6am to midnight

London, SE England, E Midlands: Mist clearing, sunny intervals, perhaps a drizzle at first; wind E, light; max 13 to 15C (55 to 59F).
East Angles, E Central N England: Fog patches clearing slowly, sunny intervals; wind light; max 11 to 15C (52 to 59F).
Central S, SW England, Channel Islands, Wales, Isle of Man, N Ireland: Mainly cloudy, rain, higher intervals later; wind SE, moderate to fresh; max 13 to 15C (55 to 59F).

W Midlands, N England, Lake District, Cumbria, high fells: Light to moderate rain; wind E to SE, moderate; max 13 to 15C (55 to 59F).

NE England, Borders, Edinburgh, Dundee, Aberdeen, Glasgow, Central Highlands, Moray Firth, Duff, misty, fog patches and drizzle persisting in places; wind E, light; max 9 to 11C (48 to 52F).
SW, NW Scotland, Argyll, Duff, sunny intervals; wind E, moderate; max 12 to 14C (54 to 57F).

NE Scotland, Orkney, Shetland: Dry, sunny intervals; wind E, light to moderate; max 10 to 12C (50 to 54F).
Outlook for tomorrow and Sunday: Little change becoming cooler with night frost in places.

SEA FARECAST: S North Sea: Wind E, light or moderate; sea slight. Straits of Dover, English Channel (E) Wind SE, light or moderate; sea slight. SE English Channel and SE moderate or fresh, becoming light; sea moderate, becoming slight. Irish Sea: Wind SE, moderate or fresh; sea moderate.

Lighting-up time

London 4.48 pm to 6.42 am
Bristol 4.58 pm to 6.52 am
Edinburgh 4.48 pm to 7.12 am
Manchester 4.48 pm to 6.58 am
Preston 5.14 pm to 6.50 am

Yesterday

Temperatures at midday yesterday: a, cloud; b, drizzle; c, fog; d, rain; e, sun, m, moon, h, high; l, low.
a, cloud; b, drizzle; c, fog; d, rain; e, sun, m, moon, h, high; l, low.

Highest and lowest

Yesterday: Highest day: temp. Exmouth, 18C (64F); lowest day: temp. Lough, 10C (50F); highest rainfall: Wick, 0.08in; highest sunrise: Sogor, 7.77.

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NOON TODAY: Pressure in millions of hPa (1 mb = 1013.25 hPa). (Shaded areas are in thousands of hPa)



NOON TODAY: Pressure in millions of hPa (1 mb = 1013.25 hPa). (Shaded areas are in thousands of hPa)

High tides	
Location	Time
London Bridge	10.17
London Bridge	10.17
London Bridge	10.17
London Bridge	10.17
London Bridge	10.17
London Bridge	10.17
London Bridge	10.17
London Bridge	10.17
London Bridge	10.17
London Bridge	10.17

Around Britain

Location	Time	Time	Time
London	10.17	10.17	10.17
London	10.17	10.17	10.17
London	10.17	10.17	10.17
London	10.17	10.17	10.17
London	10.17	10.17	10.17
London	10.17	10.17	10.17
London	10.17	10.17	10.17
London	10.17	10.17	10.17
London	10.17	10.17	10.17
London	10.17	10.17	10.17

Abroad

Location	Time	Time	Time
London	10.17	10.17	10.17
London	10.17	10.17	10.17
London	10.17	10.17	10.17
London	10.17	10.17	10.17
London	10.17	10.17	10.17
London	10.17	10.17	10.17
London	10.17	10.17	10.17
London	10.17	10.17	10.17
London	10.17	10.17	10.17
London	10.17	10.17	10.17

هكذا من الأصل